THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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Israelis take cover in Herzliya during rocket fire from the Gaza Strip | AFP

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RESURGENT HAMAS LAUNCHES FRESH ROCKET ATTACKS TARGETING TEL AVIV

The first long-range rocket attack from Gaza since January sent Israelis scrambling for cover on Sunday, but there were no reports of casualties

EIGHT PROJECTILES FIRED FROM RAFAH: IDF

Israel's army said at least eight rockets were fired towards the country's central regions from Gaza's Rafah, adding "a number" of the projectiles were intercepted. In Tel Aviv, rocket sirens blared for the first time in several months. The fresh attack is seen as a show of resilience by Hamas at a time when Israel's war cabinet is set to discuss truce and hostage release deal | P9

ISRAELI AIRSTRIKES ON GAZA CONTINUE

- Israel continued its air strikes on northern, central and southern areas of Gaza on Sunday with its military saying more than 50 "terrorist targets" were struck across the Palestinian enclave since Saturday night
- The Israeli army said its troops seized dozens of rocket parts and weapons from an arms depot operating inside a school in northern Gaza's Jabalia

81

PEOPLE KILLED IN GAZA ON SUNDAY, THE HAMAS-CONTROLLED HEALTH MINISTRY SAID

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Six babies killed in Delhi hospital fire, five injured

Was running without valid licence; doctors BAMS degree holders

Crowd seen in front of a children's hospital in New Delhi's Vivek Vihar area where a fire broke out on Saturday night killing six newborns | PARVEEN NEGI

UJWAL JALALI @New Delhi

SIX newborns were killed and five others injured after a massive fire broke out at a private childcare hospital in Delhi's Shahdara area late on Saturday night. According to police sources, the hospital was functioning without a valid licence and it did not have clearance from the Fire Department. The hospital did not even have the mandatory fire extinguisher. There was no emergency exit either, officials said.

According to a senior officer, a total of seven infant bodies were sent for postmortem, including the body of one child who had died hours before the fire incident. "The child had died a couple of hours before the incident during treatment. He had some heart problems. The hospital staff had intimated his parents around 8.30 pm on Saturday," DCP (Shahdara) Surendra Chaudhary told *TNIE*.

The hospital's owner Dr Naveen Khichi (45) and duty doctor Dr Aaksh (26) were arrested. Police officials said the doctors on duty were not qualified to treat infants as they were BAMS degree holders.

An FIR has been registered under IPC Sections 336 (act endangering life and personal safety of others) and 304A (causing death by negligence), 304 (punishment for culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide).

The Delhi government has ordered a magisterial probe into the fire tragedy.

The licence issued to the hospital had expired in March. "Even as per the expired licence, it was supposed to have only 5 beds. But 12 newborns were in the hospital at the time of the accident," a senior officer said.

The fire broke out around 11.30 pm on Saturday. Delhi Fire Service Director Atul Garg said nine fire tenders were rushed to the spot. By the time firemen reached the spot, the building was already engulfed in flames. The firemen and police personnel rescued 12 infants from the building and took them to a nearby hospital. According to fire officials, it took them around 70 minutes to control the inferno.

Officials said the probable cause of the fire was short circuit. According to sources, the babies died due to excessive heat and asphyxiation. The fire had not reached the room where the infants were kept.

Rajkot gaming zone did not have fire dept's NOC, says FIR

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @Ahmedabad

A day after the deadly blaze at TRP Gaming Zone in Gujarat's Rajkot, the city police on Sunday registered a First Information Report (FIR) as per which the facility lacked fire safety equipment and was operating without the required 'No Objection Certificate' from the fire department. The toll from the blaze climbed to 28 on Sunday.

As per the complaint registered by the police, "The owner of the TRP Zone constructed a gaming area using an iron and sheet fabrication structure, approximately 50 meters wide, 60 meters long, and two to three floors high. Despite knowing the severe fire risk, they operated the gaming zone without effective firefighting equipment or a fire department NOC."

Rajkot taluka police have booked six persons for culpable homicide not amounting to murder including Dhaval Corporation proprietor Dhaval Thakkar, Raceway Enterprise partners Ashoksinh Jadeja, Kiritsinh Jadeja, Prakashchand Hiran, Yuvrajsinh Solanki and Rahul Rathod, as per the FIR.

However, Rajkot Police Commissioner Raju Bhargava said the accused have presented evidence of fire safety equipment.

Meanwhile, the Gujarat High Court on Sunday took suo motu cognizance of the incident, calling it prima facie a "manmade disaster". The matter will be heard on Monday. The court may issue a directive concerning the state's game zones.

Big Knights eclipse Sunrisers in one-sided final

GOMESH S @Chennai

HEADISHEK is a moniker Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma earned for destroying oppositions, setting record partnerships and touching heady heights during powerplays. They rewrote the batting manual and cooked the winning recipe for Sunrisers Hyderabad. Heinrich Klaasen provided the finishing touches. Bowlers led by captain Pat Cummins then make sure to secure the matches. Put up big scores and out-bat oppositions.

On Sunday, with the temperature hovering around 40 degree Celsius during the day, Kolkata Knight Riders, armed with an array of bowlers — both incisive and utility — led by the ever-dependable Mitchell Starc had only one thing in mind. Stop the openers from scoring big and restrict in middle overs. But in the most one-sided final, KKR not only managed to send Headishek home early but tore into the batting order. A late rearguard by Cummins helped them to reach a figure — 113 — that they usually would score in the first eight overs.

Kolkata Knight Riders players celebrate after beating Sunrisers Hyderabad in Chennai on Sunday. This is their 3rd IPL title after 2012 & 2014 | ASHWIN PRASATH

With a strong KKR support in the stands, Starc delivered the ball of the season to clean up Abhishek on the fifth delivery of the match — a sharp outswinger that clipped the top of off stump. And Vaibhav Arora's outswinger sent back Head in the next over. Then Starc removed Rahul Tripathi in the fifth, and KKR were in the driving seat. Their mystery bowlers, Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarthy, tweaked the story a little further. Venkatesh Iyer's fifty ensured no hiccups for KKR.

A highly-entertaining IPL that saw records of highest scores turned into a dampener. An antithesis. Even as a storm set to ravage Kolkata late night, this news of IPL triumph would help fans to tide over the dark and dreary night with optimism. After all, KKR has won the title after 10 years. P11

Bengal braces for heavy rain as Cyclone Remal makes landfall

SULAGNA SENGUPTA @Kolkata

CYCLONE Remal intensified into a 'severe cyclonic storm' and made landfall between West Bengal and Bangladesh coasts on Sunday night with wind speeds ranging from 110-120 km per hour and gusts reaching up to 135 kmph, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

The IMD said the weather system will bring heavy to very heavy rainfall over South and North 24 Parganas, Purba Medinipur, Kolkata Howrah and Hooghly districts of West Bengal while heavy rain is likely in the state's Paschim Medinipur, Purba Bardhaman and Nadia districts on May 26 and 27.

Extremely heavy rains are also likely to lash parts of northeast India on May 27 and 28. Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea till May 28.

Around 1.10 lakh people have been evacuated from coastal regions, including Sagar Island, Sunderbans, and Kakdwip, as a precautionary measure.

Kolkata airport has suspended flight operations for 21 hours beginning from Sunday noon.

Rain and strong winds ahead of the landfall of Cyclone Remal, in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal. The cyclone made landfall late on Sunday | PTI

The Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Kolkata suspended all cargo and container handling operations for 12 hours from Sunday evening. Railway operations in the port area will also be suspended during that time, officials said.

Sixteen battalions each from the state disaster management force and the National Disaster Response Forces have been deployed in the coastal regions to help with evacuation and relief works.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting to review response and preparedness. West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose said he is closely monitoring the situation and is in touch with the state and central experts to ensure a coordinated response.

The state government has set up a 24/7 control room at the state secretariat in Kolkata to monitor the situation in the state's coastal districts. The helpline numbers at the state secretariat are 1070 and (033)-22143526.

Tiger mauls woman to death in HD Kote

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

A 48-year-old woman was mauled to death by a tiger in HD Kote taluk on Saturday night. Her body was found in the forest early on Sunday morning.

Foresters identified the woman as **Chikkamma aka Chikki** of Maladavadi Haadi in N Beguru. She was attacked by the tiger while she was grazing goats at Moorband Betta. When Chikki did not return home till late in the evening, her family members, villagers and forest staff started searching for her. Her mutilated body was found near the forest watchtower, and the tiger had dragged her body for a distance.

Hediyala ACF G Ravindra said, "To monitor the movement of the tiger, around 40 camera traps have been installed," he said.

Bandipur Tiger Reserve Field Director S Prabhakaran, ACF Ravindra and RFO Manjunath Bagewadi visited the spot, and found tiger pugmarks closeby. They issued a cheque for Rs 5 lakh to the woman's family.

In 24 hours, 51 killed in road accidents across Karnataka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

IN a span of 24 hours, Karnataka witnessed horrific road accidents that claimed the lives of 51 individuals, marking one of the highest tolls in a day in the recent past.

Referring to a road accident in Hassan district on Sunday morning, Additional Director General of Police (Traffic & Road Safety) Alok Kumar posted on X on Sunday, "In last 24 hours, 51 lives lost in road accidents, one of the highest toll in the recent past. Many of these caused due to rash and reckless driving. Road safety needs responsible behaviour from all the stakeholders."

In 2023, on an average 34 people were killed every day in road accidents across the state, with the most severe occurring on highways. Most of the accidents were reported on the weekends.

Traffic expert Sreehari MN said authorities need to strictly enforce traffic laws and hold awareness campaigns. Most accidents are due to poor riding/driving skills. RTO rules for approving and testing drivers need to be strict, he said.

6 die as truck rams into toppled car near Hassan

Hassan: Six people of a family died on the spot when their car was rammed by an oncoming truck after it hit a divider and toppled to the right of the road, near Hassan early on Sunday morning. The family was returning from Mangaluru to their native Karahalli village, Bengaluru rural | P5

EXPRESS READ

CID to take over custodial death probe

Davanagere: The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) will take over the investigation into the alleged death of a man in police custody in Channagiri on Friday, said Superintendent of Police Uma Prashanth on Sunday. She said police have arrested 25 persons for vandalising the police station and attacking police personnel. They were part of a mob that attacked the police station after the death of an arrested person, Adil. Channagiri, which was tense over the custodial death, returned to normal on Sunday | P4

12 hurt as Qatar Airways flight hits turbulance

London: Twelve people were injured during turbulence on a Qatar Airways flight from Doha to Ireland that landed safely on Sunday, Dublin airport officials said. The incident comes a week after a passenger died and dozens were injured when a Singapore Airlines flight from London hit severe turbulence and was diverted to Bangkok. Six passengers and six crew members suffered injuries in the latest incident, when Qatar Airways flight QR017 endured turbulence over Turkey, Dublin airport said in a statement | P9

Can the rebel Soren sour JMM's hopes in its traditional stronghold?

MUKESH RANJAN @Ranchi

JHARKHAND'S Dumka Lok Sabha seat, the traditional stronghold of JMM patriarch Shibu Soren, is witnessing a curious contest this time as Soren's daughter-in-law Sita Soren is fighting on a BJP ticket. A long-time JMM member and three-time MLA from Jama Assembly, she joined the BJP in March claiming she was "neglected and isolated" in the JMM.

SHOWTIME FOR GLADIATORS

Since 1980, a candidate from the Shibu Soren family used to contest from Dumka. But this time, to avoid a family feud, the JMM has fielded veteran leader and six-time MLA Nalin Soren from the seat, which is reserved for the Scheduled Tribes.

As for the BJP, it has benched sitting MP Sunil Soren to put Sita Soren in the fray. Sita was married to Durga Soren, Shibu Soren's son and Hemant Soren's brother. She entered politics after the untimely demise of her husband in 2009 at the age of 39. She was elected from the Jama Assembly seat for the first time in 2009. Among the Soren siblings — Durga, Hemant, Basant, and sister Anjani — the eldest brother, Durga, was supposed to take over the reins of the JMM from Shibu Soren. Durga Soren's death paved the way for Hemant Soren's inheriting the party.

Dumka has been a stronghold of JMM with Shibu Soren getting elected eight times from the seat. However, in the Modi wave of 2019, the BJP's Sunil Soren defeated the JMM veteran by 47,000 votes.

ILLUSTRATION: MANDAR PARDIKAR

Sita Soren (left) and Nalin Soren

Both Sita and Nalin have a strong support base in their respective regions but they don't have any local issue to raise, to seek votes. Nalin Soren is trying to mobilise people on the issue of tribal respect by raising former CM Hemant Soren's arrest as an insult to the community.

Sita Soren is banking on 'Modi ki guarantee' and the welfare works done for the tribals by the BJP-led central government. She is also seeking 'justice' saying that she and her daughters were ignored by Hemant Soren and his wife Kalpana Soren.

The current political scenario is fluid in this constituency and it is difficult to predict who will emerge victorious. Tribal, Muslim, and Christian votes that constitute around 45% of the total vote count are expected to go to the JMM and votes of remaining communities to the BJP. However, the BJP is hopeful of increasing its votes this time as state BJP president Babulal Marandi is popular among the tribal voters in Dumka. "If Babulal Marandi succeeds in mobilising even 5% of the non-Christian tribal voters, the situation will change and the result will go in BJP's favour," said Shivshankar Chaudhary, a senior journalist based from Dumka. The total strength of non-Christian tribal voters in Dumka would come to around 15%, he added.

On the other hand, there is a fair amount of resentment among the tribals over Sita Soren's decision to leave the JMM when Hemant is in jail. "The timing of her leaving the party, and the family, will make a negative impact among her supporters who had been loyal to the Soren family," said Ajiz Mian of Mohara village under Jamtara Block of Dumka.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
Monday: 27.05.2024 • Year: Krodhi • Ayana: Uttharayana
Ritu: Vasantha • Masa: Vaishaka • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Chathurthi 4.27 pm
Nakshatra: Purvashada 10.12 am • Moon in Makara Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 20°C | MAX 32°C
FORECAST
Showers late. Overcast

Sunrise 05.52 am
Sunset 06.41 pm
Moonrise 10.26 pm
Moonset 09.02 am

02 BENGALURU MONDAY 27.05.2024 newindianexpress.com

RERA hands incomplete project to Assn

Authority orders financier that funded the builder to pay Rs 4.49 cr to allottees' assn to complete project

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

THE Real Estate Regulatory Authority-Karnataka (RERA-K) has handed over yet another incomplete residential project to an association formed by flat allottees for completion. Additionally, the Authority has ordered the financial institution which funded the builder to pay Rs 4.49 crore to the association to complete the project.

'Commune One', a project on the Anekal-Chandapura Road of Anekal taluk with 384 flats comprising 1BHK, 2BHK and 3BHK, had not been completed by the builder, Commune Properties Pvt Ltd. The company mortgaged the flats to Mumbai-based Anand Rathi Global Finance Limited (ARGFL) to mobilise resources without the consent of the allottees.

The order was passed by RERA Chairman HC Kishore Chandra and members Neelamani N Raju and GR Reddy on May 17 on the complaint registered by Commune One Owners Cooperative Society and Commune Buyers Welfare Association in February 2021.

Advocate Pradeep Kumar of Pradeep Kumar PK & Associates, who represented the allottees, told TNIE, "The buyers had paid between Rs 45 lakh and Rs 55 lakh to buy the flats. The project has five blocks with many interior works still incomplete. The A Block has the maximum work pending."

He said, "This is a landmark judgment because the collusion between the financial institution and the builder is fully exposed in the inquiry by RERA. It has now directed the financier to pay the allottees' association (registered as cooperative society) the money which it had taken illegally."

He charged that the institution had entered into a fraudulent MoU with the builder. "To facilitate recovery of the loan, the builder sold 40 flats at just Rs 20 lakh per flat to the financier. The excess amount expected to be mobilised by selling the flats at a higher price by Anand Rathi was to be handed over to the builder. So far 18 flats have been sold and Rs 4.39 crore extra money has been mobilised by the financier," he explained.

The builder has been asked to hand over all the documents and bank statements to the association. The allottees will also pool in the additional amount to complete the project.

SUSTAINABILITY, INNOVATION

AIRPORT CITY TO HAVE BIZ PARK, NEW HOTELS, CONCERT ARENA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A massive transformation is under way near Kempegowda International Airport, with a 2-million sqft Business Park, 775 rooms in two new hotels, and a spacious concert arena set to open by the end of 2026.

According to an official release, these figure in the investment plans of Bengaluru Airport City Limited (BACL), a subsidiary of Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL).

"In a positive stride towards sustainability and technological innovation, the biophilic-inspired Business Park by BACL promises smart workspaces within a vibrant public realm... the development aims to cater to the diverse needs of businesses and employees, offering a dynamic environment for growth and collaboration," the release said.

An urban forest will be created at its centre. "This green space will serve as a focal point, blending indoor and outdoor spaces throughout the area. The upcoming Metro station in Airport City will provide seamless connectivity to the Business Park from the northern side, ensuring convenient accessibility," it added.

Rao Munukutla, CEO, BACL, said, "This investment by BACL will propel our vision of transforming the Airport City into a bustling hub for businesses, knowledge-intensive zones, R&D centres and Global Capability Centres. With world-class infrastructure and a focus on sustainability, our goal is to create a thriving environment that nurtures growth, brings in job opportunities and makes a positive socio-economic impact on the region."

A combo hotel and concert arena will be developed along with the Business Park. The hotel is poised to become one of the largest hospitality establishments in India. "Comprising a total of 775 keys, the hotel will feature the Vivanta brand with 450 keys and Ginger brand providing 325 keys. Anticipated to be completed by the end of 2026, it will further solidify Airport City's standing as a top-tier destination for both business travellers and tourists," it said.

Taj Bangalore already offers 370 rooms within Airport City. The concert arena will be the first-of-its-kind of arena in the country in an airport ecosystem. "It will have an impressive capacity to host 10,000 attendees. Scheduled to open its doors within the next couple of years, this state-of-the-art venue will set the stage for spectacular events and concerts, elevating Airport City's profile as a hub for entertainment and cultural gatherings."

'Build temp abattoirs, don't let waste into SWDs'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

WITH the upcoming Eid al Adha-Bakrid festival, an expert has suggested that the government set up slaughterhouses that will ensure preservation of the environment, proper waste management and mitigation of air and water pollution caused due to sacrifices. He proposed composting, organic recycling and responsible disposal of animal waste.

Inayuthulla, Director of Water Institute at UVCE, has prepared a detailed presentation addressed to Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB). He highlighted the need for designated areas and trained professionals to perform sacrifices as per religious traditions.

He added that currently, the city generates over 400 tonnes of animal waste on Eid days and records show that three lakh animals are sacrificed, generating solid and wet waste. He suggested designs for temporary slaughterhouses, keeping in mind efficiency, safety and animal welfare. It includes all aspects such as animal holding area, slaughtering zone and processing and packaging for citizens.

"Given the water scarcity that Bengaluru witnessed, we must be judicious with our usage. The sewage system in many parts of the city is not connected to the main treatment terminal. With this, all the waste along with polluted blood is pushed down stormwater drainage, causing damage to the water bodies. Our Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) also do not have strong filters to stop animal waste," explained Inayuthulla.

The awareness can be spread through Friday prayers in all mosques with a strategy and a microplan for the area, along with support from BBMP ward engineers and health officers for pit preparation and waste collection.

To save one of the largest lakes in Bengaluru, residents of Medahalli Rising, in association with the Indian Ploggers Army, Friends of Lake and lake volunteers, organised a lake clean-up drive at the Yele Mallappa Shetty lake, located in the north-eastern part of Bengaluru on Saturday. More than 50 volunteers participated in the drive and collected plastic waste, dry waste, and other debris from the STPs and covered a distance of approximately 2 km. Volunteers collected over 125 kg of trash in more than 20 bags, with each bag weighed approximately 6-7 kg.

EXPRESS READ

Bengaluru hotels to cease serving nitrogen-infused paan

Bengaluru: Following reports revealing the harmful effects of liquid nitrogen used in food, members of the Bruhat Bangalore Hotels Association wrote a letter to Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao informing that they have instructed all hotels to cease serving liquid nitrogen-infused paan. This follows an incident where a 12-year-old developed a stomach perforation after consuming nitrogen-infused paan at a wedding reception in Bengaluru. The letter stated that recently it was observed that nitrogen-infused (beetle leaf) Beeda has been in use in certain places. This practice is detrimental to consumer's health. The hotel association has already instructed all hotel owners to refrain from serving this, and they have also notified the FSSAI officials about the matter. The letter further stated that the association members are appealing the health department to discuss with the concerned authorities, raise awareness and advocate ban on use of nitrogen-infused beeda or paan.

DKS seeks inspection of gaming zones

Bengaluru: Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday directed authorities to assess precautionary measures at gaming zones in Bengaluru and check if the prescribed safety norms are adhered to, in the wake of a fire tragedy at a facility in Gujarat. He also sent a note to the BBMP Chief in this regard. At least 27 people, including four children under the age of 12, were killed in a massive fire in Gujarat's Rajkot on Saturday evening.

Show must go on: Circus artistes fear fading out, seek govt aid, recognition for their art

Artists of Rambo Circus perform in one of their shows

The starting price of tickets for similar shows in other countries is at Rs 8,000, and yet, when we sell our tickets for over Rs 300, we are faced with questions like, why should the viewers pay so much without any animal act in the show — Sujit Dilip, Owner of Rambo Circus

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

CIRCUS – where life under the vibrant tent seems colourful like their costumes, magical like their tricks, interesting like the props, and dazzling like the lights. And yet, the life of a circus artiste only gets tougher by the day, as circus artistes are still grappling with the aftermath of Covid.

"Approximately Rs 2 lakhs is spent on costumes, lights, accessories, equipment, and rent, for each show. To survive the off season, we must earn a significant amount during the peak season, which has become challenging post the corona wave," said an artiste.

"We continue to bear the burden of the expensive rents for a show, and struggle to get enough attention for the performances," said another artiste.

When TNIE reached out to circus artistes, they expressed regret on the fact that circus in India, unlike in other countries, is not considered as art. Performers are even to this day not officially recognized as artistes by the government, they pointed out, and shed light on the lack government support in terms of discount on rents, among other issues.

Sujit Dilip, the owner of the Rambo Circus, highlighted the challenges faced due to a lack of recognition from the Cultural Ministry.

"Circus in India, is a deep-rooted cultural tradition that we have dedicated our lives to. Time and again, we have requested the government to open circus schools, provide rent discounts for venues, and formally recognise us as artistes so we can send our artistes abroad to showcase Indian talent. Despite our numerous appeals, no action has been taken," added Dilip.

Ramakrishna, an 80-year-old circus artiste, who used to perform with peg slits (wood sticks to appear exceptionally tall) said, "The circus industry is built on the hard work, and dedication of many of us. For years, we have entertained audiences with diverse acts which brought us joy and hope too. Circuses were once the biggest live shows that attracted huge crowds. However, that era has now passed, and the industry is collapsing."

Only a few artistes are eager to join the circus. Strict rules on animal shows and ban on training children in acrobatics limits the scope of performances, making it harder to attract audience, explained the artistes.

"Circus may not last much longer. With no performers training, and current artistes nearing retirement, there is no one left to create new acts and hardly anybody to perform," Sunro, a native of Nepal, who is associated with Jumbo Circus for over 20 years, said.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

27TH May : This week I'm talking about Jupiter, that most benevolent of planets, which is working through an important phase of its twelve-month cycle. It's a time for hanging on to everything we've gained, and making sure that temporary advances are made permanent. There'll be time soon to plan the future, and that means looking out for loved ones as well as for ourselves.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
You are unlikely to have a quiet week. Strange to say, there'll be a number of eye-catching events which will reflect, in some significant way, the possibilities surfacing in your private, inner life. Don't worry. It's all down to that powerful pair, the Sun and the Moon.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
It may not be easy to reach firm agreements although, if arrangements do break down, it will be through no fault of yours. Yet, if you step back from your demand for total commitment, friends will be in a more amenable mood and events are likely to un smoothly.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
In spite of everything that's been said and done, you are always ready to forgive past misdeeds once partners and loved ones realise the error of their ways. Now that Mercury is your ally, you should be wise and magnanimous in victory. And whatever doesn't work out in your favour can be put down as a learning opportunity.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Energetic Mars is likely to prove a welcome presence, challenging you to discard your normal restraint and reticence. It will be quite something when you finally say what's on your mind! However, don't fall into the trap of imagining you can blame people for your mistakes!

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
There's mystery in the air, provoked by the activities of Mars as it burrows deep, releasing long-forgotten feelings and passions. Don't be surprised if a colleague spills the beans. And don't be alarmed if someone ends up presenting you with a bill.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Expect an increasingly easy ride at work. What is so pleasant is that you are the last person to expect that circumstances should be so favourable. In fact, you'll be in the powerful position of deciding whether ordinary mortals get a look-in or not.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
You're not one to look a gift horse in the mouth so, when a partner offers to wait on you, who are you to complain? It's also about time that you allowed other people to shoulder more responsibility. After all, why should you have to do everything?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Venus has the power to play a softening role in your life, and you may be lured into a series of pleasant romantic encounters. In business, there's an excellent chance of successful deals, but no need to rush into anything until you're absolutely satisfied there are no further circumstances to uncover.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
If you've been too involved in day-to-day affairs, now may be the time to shift the emphasis in favour of long-term ambitions. Leisure activities may be directed towards acquiring respect in the community. If there's one thing you deserve, it's recognition for your achievements.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Mars may raise your spirits to higher planes, yet associates will soon bring you down to earth. You must be prepared for partners to obstruct your more interesting and innovatory proposals. What you then have to figure out is just why they won't go along with your plans.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
You're not always well-known for your business skill, but today you may feel the need to build up your personal resources. The desire for domestic and family security seems to be a prime motivation. But it may be enough for now just to make plans.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
The Moon is bringing intriguing swings of mood. You may even be off in fantasy-land. However, there's no excuse for not getting on with work in hand or keeping an eye on developments which could have a profound effect on your prospects. Enjoy the day but plan for the future.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

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		1	5		2	8		
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1	8			7	5		6	
	9	7	3	4		5		

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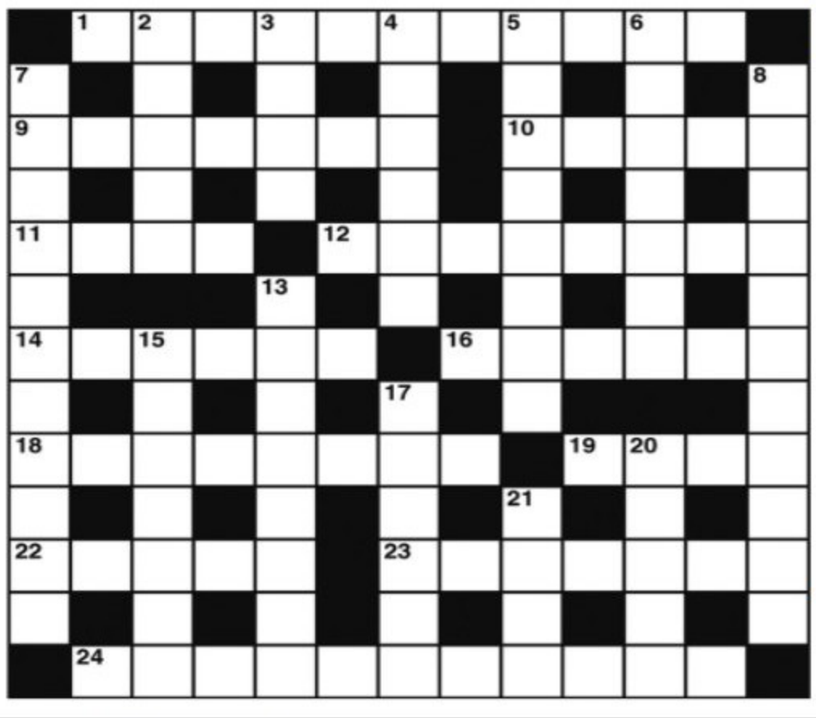
1	7	8	5	2	9	4	6	3
3	2	4	6	1	8	5	7	9
5	4	3	8	6	2	7	9	1
8	1	6	9	7	4	3	2	5
2	9	7	3	5	1	6	4	8

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 The weather-beaten skipper's last order? (7,4)
9 Husband again appears to make good (7)
10 Cut and share out (5)
11 Experts break the case (4)
12 Makes a mess of a Schubert variation (8)
14 Points to one of five kids as being bright (6)
16 Quietly argue about foreign capital (6)
18 Things one eats or wastes (8)
19 Short way round company tax (4)
22 Put out an alert afterwards (5)
23 What it means to a bartender (7)
24 A direct route provided immediately (11)

DOWN
2 Soundly rooted in cane (5)
3 Approval denied, it appears, for refuge (4)
4 Reveal advice on how to be less reserved? (4,2)
5 It helps if you require a frame up (4,4)
6 Titanic destroyer (7)
7 Lets one down lightly (6,1,4)
8 Looking for golden opportunities? (11)
13 A regal carriage? (8)
15 Ten hands working and playing together perhaps (7)
17 Tiresome duty for a judge (6)
20 Country offering the finest service (5)
21 Some unhappy couples may decide to (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Orange, 4 Aspirate, 9 Lessee, 10 Trappist, 12 Junk, 13 Corps, 14 Chit, 17 School blazer, 20 Riding habits, 23 Ally, 24 Spare, 25 Saga, 28 Duettist, 29 Daniel, 30 Disciple, 31 Amends.

Down: 1 Only just, 2 Absinthe, 3 Glee, 5 Straphangers, 6 Imps, 7 Aright, 8 Estate, 11 Bombdisposal, 15 Solid, 16 Texas, 18 Fixation, 19 Israelis, 21 Landed, 22 Fliers, 26 Etui, 27 Palm.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

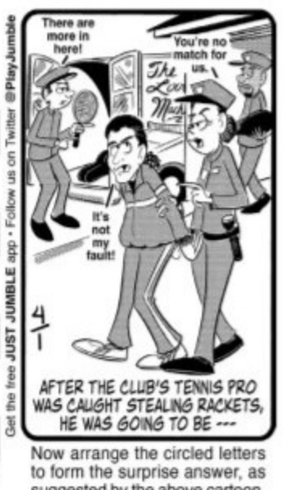
BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

ANGRD

SETUG

CEMEBO

LOVINI


There are more in here!
You're no match for us.
The Last Mutt
It's not my fault!
4/1
AFTER THE CLUB'S TENNIS PRO WAS CAUGHT STEALING RACKETS, HE WAS GOING TO BE ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: CHOMP KNIFE LATELY REBUKE
Answer: His model railroad had so many pieces that it was hard to — KEEP TRACK OF

Shivamogga police arrested two women for illegally lending money at exorbitant interest rates. Following a complaint from a woman that the duo harassed her to pay additional amounts, publicly insulted her using her caste and threatened her, the Kote police registered a case under Karnataka Prevention of Charging Exorbitant Interest Act 2004, SC and ST (PA Act)

ROAD MAPPING

Traffic cops plan simulation strategy to tackle congestion

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

IN an attempt to bring about a qualitative improvement in managing vehicular traffic on the city's roads, the traffic department has submitted a proposal to the State government to introduce a software-based system, which can be used to simulate any situation and take informed decisions. If it gets the green signal, Bengaluru police will be the first in the country to introduce the 'Traffic Micro Simulation Modelling' system.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) MN Anucheth told *TNIE*, "This is the important aspect of the action plan we submitted to the government recently. The Micro Simulation Modelling system includes both software and some IT equipment which would approximately cost Rs 4 crore. We need to procure them from abroad. This new technology is being adopted by countries which have much less traffic."

Anucheth said any traffic situation can be simulated on this system, which will be installed at the Traffic Management Centre. "We can assess the impact of any proposed decision on the roads before implementing it live on the roads. The simulation system can bring about a qualitative change in managing traffic. If we observe massive congestion at any specific spot, we can simulate the condition and see how best the crowd could be diverted through nearby roads. Similarly, if a one-way is planned to be introduced on any road, we can assess the impact of that on surrounding roads via simulation, and the best move," he explained.

The top cop said the city had 1.2 crore vehicles (all types) registered as on December 31, 2023, with an average of 3,000 vehicles being added to the roads daily.

Sharing details on the top 30 congested junctions in the city in the first four months of 2024, Anucheth said junctions at Hebbal flyover, Silk Board, Gorguntepalya, Devarabeesanahalli and Big Bazaar Junction occupy the top five positions.

The department hopes to get the go-ahead for its proposal after the model code of conduct is lifted.

3,800 VACANCIES IN CITY POLICE, BUT GOVT DRAGS ITS FEET

21,720 personnel required to police Bengaluru effectively, but current staff strength is just 15,475

RAKSHITH GOWDA @ Bengaluru

THE city's rising crime, population and traffic directly point to the mismatch in the police-to-public ratio as police strength has remained unchanged for years. Despite the growing need for more officers, the government has failed to increase the numbers because of concerns over the higher expenditure involved.

With 3,814 posts vacant, including that of crucial ones like 1,825 police constables (PCs) and 347 police sub-inspectors (PSIs), the shortage has led to various challenges in maintaining law and order and ensuring public safety. Forget vacancies, even the sanctioned police strength is not enough for the city's current population of 1.4 million.

According to the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), 170 civil police are required per 1 lakh population, suggesting that 21,720 personnel are required to police the city. But the state capital currently has 15,475 policemen and officers, including DCPs and ACPs of Law and Order, Traffic and Special Forces combined, which exposes the substantial gap between the actual staff strength and the ideal numbers.

Ramesh ST, retired DG&IGP, said, "The police force is a human resource-intensive organisation. When technology is upgraded, work becomes more effective and efficiency improves, but numbers are necessary. For example, while patrol vehicles like Hoysala and Cheetahs are increasing, there is a need for more police personnel to operate them."

He said recruitment should be a constant cycle as there are many cadres in the police force, like civil constables, Armed Reserve etc. The recruitment branch needs to be strengthened with more senior and middle-level officers to forecast and recruit personnel as and when vacancies arise. Vacancies come up every few months because of retirements, deaths, promotions, etc, he said.

The police department must have sent many proposals to the government to increase the sanctioned police strength as crime, population, industrial and student activities, and traffic is increasing every day. There is a mismatch between the city's growth in all fields and the growth of the police force, which is not keeping pace. The government is slow in augmenting police strength because of budgetary constraints, he added.

A senior police officer said police constables are the 'ground force of the police department,' handling all major and minor tasks like court work, crime detection, night beat etc. While PSIs supervise and improve the quality of work effectively in the administration, resolve pending cases, and bring long-undetected cases to a logical end. Increasing and recruiting personnel will distribute the workload and reduce pressure on policemen, he said.

> **When technology is upgraded, work becomes more effective, but numbers are necessary. For example, while patrol vehicles like Hoysala and Cheetahs are increasing, there is a need for more police personnel to operate them** — Ramesh ST, retired DG&IGP

WALK OF LIFE

Volunteers take part in the '3K Diabetic Foot Awareness Walkathon' at Malleswaram on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Man nabbed for killing two

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

A 26-year-old habitual offender has been arrested for killing two people by smashing their heads with a stone when they were asleep. The murders took place in Banashankari police station limits on May 12 and in the jurisdiction of City Market police station on May 18.

The police identified the accused as **Girish M** alias Giri, a resident of Vasanthapura in Subramanyapura. The victim, who died in the city market police station limits, was identified as Suresh, a beggar, while the identity of the victim in the Banashankari case is yet to be established.

Police said the accused was identified from CCTV footage. "Girish was under the influence of alcohol during both attacks and there is no motive behind the murders. Girish is also involved in sexual harassment, robbery, assault and intimidation cases registered in various police stations across the city. He had served a jail term of 10 months in an assault case in City Market police jurisdiction and was released in 2020," the police said.

Girish is an alcoholic and a drug addict. He was known for threatening people at night and stealing mobile phones and other valuables, the police added.

Alert technician averts train accident in Udupi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Udupi

A possible train mishap was averted on the Konkan Railway route in Udupi after track maintenance staffer Pradeep Shetty noticed a track weld defect between Innanje and Padubidri at 2.25 am on Sunday. He reported the defect to the officials concerned immediately, and it was then restored and a track fit certificate was given at 5.58 am with the speed restriction of 20 kmph.

KRCL chairman and managing director Santosh Kumar Jha announced an immediate cash award of Rs 25,000 to Shetty which was paid at the restored track site in the afternoon.

Track maintenance staffer Pradeep Shetty felicitated by KR officials

A passenger, Vishal Shenoy, who was onboard Panchaganga Express bound to Karwar, said that the train was stopped at Nandikur station, about 9 km south of Padubidri. While Netravathi Express bound to Thiruvananthapuram Central was halted at Innanje. Shenoy saw a Rail Maintenance Vehicle (RMV) moving towards Padubidri for track restoration work.

Train number 16345 Mumbai LTT-Thiruvananthapuram Central Netravathi Express was to leave Udupi at 3 am towards Mangaluru Junction while train number 16595 KSR Bengaluru-Karwar Panchaganga Express was to pass through the stretch around 4 am on Sunday. Both the trains were stopped till the track defect was restored. Sudha Krishnamurthy, manager, public relation, Konkan Railway, said that the train traffic was restored after the track was certified fit for operation with speed restriction of 20 kmph. B B Nikam, Regional Railway Manager, Konkan Railway claimed that weld failure happens sometimes due to sudden drop in temperature. The joint gets protected by a fish plate (splice bar) at the time of weld failure also, he said.

Car fatally mows down six-yr-old girl

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

A six-year-old girl was fatally mowed down by a car when she was playing near her house on Bannerghatta Road in Ramanagara district on Saturday night. The car was being driven by a woman who was reportedly learning to drive, police said.

Police said Nagamani, a resident of Kaggalipura, was playing with her friends when the woman, who stays in the neighbourhood, knocked her down while reversing the car.

Hearing the screams of the girl, her family members rushed out and found her with serious head injuries. They rushed her to a nearby hospital where the doctor declared her brought dead.

The Kaggalipura police have registered a case and are investigating.

EXPRESS READ

Traffic advisory

Bengaluru: In view of the visit by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday, the Bengaluru traffic police (BTP) have prohibited parking of all types of vehicles on Infantry Road, Cubbon Road, MG Road, Old Airport Road and Wind Tunnel Road from 11.30 am to 8 pm. The police have also requested the public to avoid these roads and use alternative roads. ENS

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients intend to purchase the below mentioned schedule Property from **Mr Manjunath K.C**, son of Chikanna. Any Persons/institutions or any person/s claiming any right, title or interest or claims over the schedule property may lodge their claims with documents with the undersigned within 15 days from today failing which my clients shall consider that there are no subsisting claims/ encumbrances in respect of the schedule property and shall continue to deal with the schedule property thereto and any claims lodged thereafter shall not bind my clients.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the vacant Site bearing No.36, originally in the Layout formed by the Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore, situated at Banashankari 5th Stage, Sy. No.3, BIKASIPURA, Bangalore, Presently property comes under the limits of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), (Ward No.197-Vasanthapua), Bangalore. Measuring East to West: 9.14 Meters, North to South 12.19 Meters, in all measuring: 111.41 Square Meters and bounded on the: **East by** : Site No.37, **West by** : Site No.35, **North by:** Site No.43, **South by:** Road.

B.S. RAGHU PRASAD, Advocate
Dt. No.7/1, 1st floor, Patalamma Temple st, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004.
Date: 25-05-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client has negotiated to purchase the property shown in the Schedule below from **MR. VINAY MUDUGAL**, S/o Mr. Ramakrishna Mudugal, R/at A-10, HMT Industrial Estate, Bengaluru - 560013. The above-named person has represented that he is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property. Any person/s, institution/s having any right, title, claim or interest of any nature in the Schedule Property or any objections of any manner whatsoever to the above sale transaction between my client and **MR. VINAY MUDUGAL**, is/are hereby called upon to notify the undersigned and file objections/claims along-with supporting documents within **07 days** from the date of publication of this Notice at the address mentioned below. If no such claim is received, it would be deemed that the above mentioned owner has clear and marketable title to the property specified below and that others do not have any claim over the same and/or claims if any will be deemed to have been waived. Any claims raised thereafter shall not be entertained or binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of Unit bearing **No.105**, Municipal **No.44/09**, BBMP PID No.50-49-44/09, in First Floor of the project **"BRIGADE BUSINESS SUITES"** constructed on Property bearing New No.44, situated at 100 Feet Road (10th Main), II Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore, and the unit measuring **1125 Sq.ft** of super built up area, along with One open car parking space in the Ground Level, together with **395.11 Sq.ft.**, of undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the Land.

HITESH KUMAR JAIN, Advocate
HM LEGAL
No.24/10, 1st Floor, Haudin Road, Ulsoor, Bengaluru-560042.
E : hitu.80@gmail.com
M : 9844372444 / 9740071833

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20
E-Tender Notice No. CPMGSU-EPC-2024-01
Dated : 17-05-2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Construction of Quarters and Service Buildings, dismantling of the structures and Earth in Formation for Embankment and Cutting including extensions of bridges, retaining walls and allied works, electrical works and telecom works (PHASE-1 DEVELOPMENT OF MYSURU RAILWAY STATION)	Rs. 2,14,70,00,000/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 16:00 Hrs. on 05-07-2024
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Chief Project Manager/GSU
PUB/105/AAD/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Mysuru**
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, who intended to purchase the schedule property from the owner of the schedule property **Sri. VIPIN N PRASAD**, aged about 29 years, son of Sri. B. Nagendra Prasad, residing at: No.496, 6 th Main Road, AMS Layout, Near Nativity Church, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bangalore- 560 097. who had acquired the same in terms of sale deed dated 16/08/2023 executed by Smt. Pramila Venkatesh alias Pramila Devi urf Pramila & Others vide document No.BYP-1-11509/2023-24 of Book - I, registered on 16/11/2023 in the office of Sub-Registrar, Byatarayanapura, Bangalore.
Sri. VIPIN N PRASAD has approached my client and intends to sell the Schedule Property - subject to my client being satisfied regarding his clear and marketable title over the schedule property free from all encumbrances and peaceful possession thereof.
Any person who may have any right, title, claim or interest in the Schedule Property or otherwise objecting to the sale may do so in writing to the undersigned **within 15 days** of this publication along with documentary proof failing which my client will proceed with the sale transaction where after no further claims will be entertained and /or the same will be deemed to have been waived or abandoned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable vacant residential property bearing Site No.1 formed out of converted land bearing Survey No.24/1 being converted for residential purpose vide Official Memorandum No. BDS. ALN. SR(N)46/1988-89 dated 21/01/1989 passed by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore, situated at Chikkabettahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli & Taluk, previously Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, presently falling under the purview of BBMP Ward No.3, bearing Khata No.218/24/1/01 measuring East to West 70 feet and North to South 40 feet in total measuring 2800 Sqft and bounded as follows: **East by** : Road, **West by** : Site No.4 & 5, **North by** : Site No.2 & 2A, **South by** : Remaining Portion of land bearing Sy No.24/1.

Mr. SUNIL KUMAR SINGH .B, Advocate
No.591, 1 st Floor, 12 th Cross, HMT Layout, 3rd Block, V. R. Pura Post, Bangalore – 97.
E-mail id: sks1112@gmail.com.
Mobile: 9972414799

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have entered into an agreement to purchase the Schedule property from its owners **SRI.B.R.RAJA** S/o Late B.A.Raghu and her sister **SMT.R.V.PAVITHRA**, residing at No.515/3, Middle School Road, Viveshwarapuram, Bengaluru - 560 004.

Apart from the said owners, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or interest or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.2 (PID No.50-1-2) and Municipal No.2/1 (PID No.50-1-2/1), measuring East to West 80ft and North to South 40ft, in all measuring 3200 Sq.ft., together with a building thereon, situated at Middle School Road, V.V.Puram, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Conservancy
West by : Middle School Road
North by : House of Thammaiah
South by : House of Lakshmana

Sd/- **S.F. GOUTAM CHAND**
Advocate
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004.

AXIS BANK LIMITED
Registered Office: "TRISHUL", Opp Samartheswar Temple, Near Law Garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380 006, Retail Assets Center: Axis Bank Ltd, Chicago Plaza, Rajaji Road, Eranakulam

POSSESSION NOTICE Rule 8 (1) (For immovable property)

Whereas, the Authorised Officer of Axis Bank Ltd, Registered Office: "TRISHUL", OppSamartheswar Temple, Near Law, Garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad- 380006, among other places its Branch office at KOCHI and its Corporate Office at "AXIS HOUSE", Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, PandurangBudhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025., under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act,2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) issued a Demand Notice dated **18-01-2024** calling upon the Borrowers/ **Mr. Lallush Mathew**, Kings Brooke, Villa No-19, Maradu, Eranakulam 682304, Also At: 308/ 32, Palathara, Mathumoola, Changanassery, Kottayam - 686103, Also At: Palathara Fuels, I.O.C Dealer, Vazhappally P.O, Changanassery, Kottayam - 686101, **Mrs. Mary Sumi**, Kings Brooke, Villa No-19, Maradu, Eranakulam - 682304, Also At: Mulloth, Ponnekkara, Elamakara (P.O), Eranakulam - 682026 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice **Rs. 1,65,03,273/- (Rupees One Crore Sixty five Lakhs Three thousand Two hundred and Seventy three only)** being the amount due as on 18/01/2024 (this amount includes interest applied till 18/01/2024)with further interest at contractual rate on the aforesaid amount and incidental expenses, costs, charges etcwithin 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this the **24th Day of May 2024.**
The Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charges of Axis Bank Ltd, for an amount of being **Rs. 1,65,03,273/- (Rupees One Crore Sixty five Lakhs Three thousand Two hundred and Seventy three only)** being the amount due as on 18/01/2024 (this amount includes interest applied till 18/01/2024)together with further interest thereon at contractual rate on the aforesaid amount and incidental expenses, costs, charges etc.
The Borrower's/Mortgagors/Guarantors attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

0.0239% of undivided share (Equivalent to 312.47 Square Feet) in the land Measuring 1006611.05 Square comprised in Sy No. 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 161 of Kadatanamale Village, together with absolute right in Residential Apartment No. 705, (1075 sq. ft.)on the 7th floor, block /wing G-8, of the multi storied building known as "PROVIDENT WELWORTH CITY" situated in Kadatanamale Village, Hesaraghattahobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District and all other rights thereto morefully described under Schedule of the Sale Deed No.11760/2013 of Bangalore,Yelahanka, SRO. **Boundaries: East:** Land in Sy.No.160, Doddaballapur Road, land in Sy. No 162.163, 164, 40, and 41; **North:** Land in Sy.No 37, 38 and 160; **West:** Land in Sy.No 41, 29, 30/7(P),31/4(P),31/ 3(P),31/2(P),31/1(P),34/1(P) & 34/2(P); **South:** Land in Sy.No.41 and 29
Place: Banglore, Date: 24-05-2024 **(Sd/-) Authorised Officer, Axis Bank Ltd.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

OUR CLIENT" **SRI. VINODH DEV**, S/O LATE DEV, AGED ABOUT 42 YRS, IS THE ABSOLUTE OWNER OF THE SITE NO-11 AND IN PHYSICAL POSSESSION AND MOREFULLY DESCRIBED IN THE SCHEDULE HEREUNDER. OUR CLIENT SRI.VINODH DEV REPRESENTED THAT ORIGINAL SALE DEED OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY REGISTERED AS DOCUMENT NO-KRI-1-31379-2004-05, CD NO-KRID-114 DATED:-16-02-2005 REGISTERED IN THE SUB-REGISTRAR OFFICE OF KRISHNARAJPURAM BANGALORE, AND NOTARIZED GPA DATED:-04-02-2006 HAS BEEN LOST NEAR BANASWADI ON 23.05.2024.HENCE OUR CLIENT LODGED A POLICE COMPLAIN ON 24.05.2024 REGARDING THE LOSS OF THE ORIGINAL SALE DEED AND GPA. ANY PERSONS FINDING THE SAID ORIGINALS MAY PLEASE HAND OVER THE SAME EITHER TO THE UNDERSIGNED OR TO THE OWNER. IF ANY PERSON CLAIMING ANY RIGHTS, TITLE OR INTEREST BASED ON THE SAID ORIGINAL SALE DEED AND NOTARIZED GPA SHOULD WRITE TO THE UNDERSIGNED WITHIN **7 DAYS** OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY BEING THE RESIDENTIAL SITE NO-11, KHATA NO-578,MEASURING AN AREA OF 1200 SQFT(EAST 40 FT,WEST 40FT ,NORTH 30FT,SOUTH 30FT) IN"BRINDAVAN AVENUE" SITUATED AT HORAMAVU VILLAGE, KRISHNARAJAPURAM HOBLI, BANGALORE EAST TALUK AND BOUNDED ON THE: **EAST BY:** SITE NO.10, **WEST BY :** SITE NO.12, **NORTH BY:** PRIVATE PROPERTY, **SOUTH BY :**PRIVATE ROAD.

R. GEETHA, Advocate
No.44 veerapillai Street, 2nd Parrallel to Commercial Street, Shivajinagar, Bangalore-560001. Mob: 9844479617,
DATED:25-05-2024

BRIC RGCB
RAJIV GANDHI CENTRE FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY
An Autonomous National Institute of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India
Thycaud PO, Poojappura, Thiruvananthapuram 695 014, Kerala
Phone: 0471 2529400, www.rgcb.res.in

Advt No: BRIC-RGCB/PhD/2024-2 May 22, 2024

PhD ADMISSIONS - 2024

BRIC-RGCB invites application for admission to the PhD programme 2024 in various domains of Disease Biology, Neuroscience, Plant Science and Bioinformatics from post-graduates in Life/Environmental/Veterinary/Pharmaceutical/ Medical Sciences or allied subjects (Biochemistry/ Biotechnology/Bioinformatics/Biophysics/Chemistry/ Microbiology, etc.) having a minimum of 60% marks and as per UGC guidelines. The candidate should have a valid JRF (UGC/CSIR/ICMR/DBT/DST-INSPIRE or any other nationally-competitive fellowship) offered by the Government and should be valid for a period of 5 years. Complete information, application format, eligibility and other details are available on the RGCB website (**www.rgcb.res.in**). Applications along with prescribed fees must be submitted online through the link given in the web portal on or before **June 26, 2024**. Incomplete applications and application without processing fees will be rejected.

Sd/-,
Director

BRIC RGCB
RAJIV GANDHI CENTRE FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY
An Autonomous National Institute of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India
Thycaud PO, Poojappura, Thiruvananthapuram 695 014, Kerala
Phone: 0471 2529400, www.rgcb.res.in

Advt No: RGCB/MSc/2024-1 May 22, 2024

BRIC-RGCB invites application for admission to the Master's Degree in Biotechnology (MSc Biotechnology)

BRIC-RGCB MSc programme is affiliated to the Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB) an "Institution of National Importance" providing education, training and research established by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). This programme has duration of two years inclusive of four semesters. All students admitted to the MSc programme shall receive a monthly stipend of ₹6000 for the first year and ₹8000 for the second year.

ELIGIBILITY:

- All candidates must have a valid GAT-B score.
- Final selection of the students will be based on the GAT-B rank and the Cut-off score/rank fixed by RGCB for each category.
- Students must have 60% aggregate marks (or an equivalent grade point average) in Bachelor's degree in any branch of Science, Engineering, Medicine or related subjects as per the UGC guidelines.

Last Date to receive the filled application: **June 26, 2024**

Complete information, application format and other details are available on the RGCB website **(www.rgcb.res.in/msc-adm)**.

Sd/-,
Director

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through kpp portal)

BWSSB invites tenders in Two cover system from eligible tenderers for the following works.

Office of the Engineer-in-Chief , 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Amount put to tender / EMD Amount
IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/ACE (UFW)/TA/527/2024-25		Dt:- 24.05.2024
1	The Work of Modernization & Remodeling of Water supply systems in Yarabanagar, Ambedkar Nagara area of existing SW2 DMA 10-DMA under AEE(SW)-4 Sub-Division limits of BWSSB, Bangalore.	Rs.462.82 Lakhs / Rs.6.95 Lakhs
IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/ACE (UFW)/TA/531/2024-25		Dt:- 24.05.2024
2	The Work of Modernization & Remodeling of Water supply systems in Vidyaranya Nagara area of existing W1DMA 13 & K.P. Agrahara area of existing W1DMA 15 DMA-under AEE(W-1)-1 limits of BWSSB, Bangalore.	Rs.462.96 Lakhs / Rs.6.94 Lakhs
IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/ACE (UFW)/TA/533/2024-25		Dt:- 24.05.2024
3	The Work of Modernization & Remodeling of Water supply systems in Suddguntepalya area of existing S3DMA 08 DMA-under AEE(SE)-6 Sub-Division limits of BWSSB, Bangalore	Rs.468.23 Lakhs / Rs.7.03 Lakhs

The last date for uploading of completed tender document is on: **10.06.2024 upto 16:00Hrs**. The Bids will be opened on: **11.06.2024 after 16:00Hrs**. The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/125/AKAR/2024-25

Sd/-
Engineer-in-Chief.

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BJP state president B Y Vijayendra on Sunday hit out at the Congress government, accusing it of misrule and deterioration of law and order in the state. He said that voters should strengthen the hands of the BJP-JDS by helping it to win all six Legislative Council seats in the polls

Whether it is a river, pond or sea, venturing into water has its risks, and it is only trained swimmers who have a chance of staying alive. it's selfie-obsessed tourists and revellers who are at risk

Death in treacherous waters

DROWNING STATS IN BENGALURU RURAL

2024 (till May 22)
36: 30 accidental, 6 suicidal

2023	2022
98: 77 accidental, 21 suicidal	104: 78 accidental, 26 suicidal

Most fatalities involve young people who enter deep waters despite lacking swimming skills. Despite repeated warnings, people enter rivers and lakes and meet their end in watery accidents

— Official

MULTIPLE FATALITIES

- Three men, aged between 18 and 24, drowned off Panambur beach during a beach festival on March 3 in Mangaluru
- Six members of a Hubballi family drowned in the river Kali at Akoda village near Dandeli, during a picnic on April 21. A child was swept away by strong river currents, prompted five individuals to jump in and attempt a rescue. Despite their efforts, all five drowned and so did the child
- Five engineering students, including three women, drowned at the confluence of the river Cauvery in Ramanagara district on April 29
- Two of the same family slipped and drowned while fishing in Udupi on May 20; they lost their lives in an attempt to rescue each other
- Three regular swimmers, all boys, drowned in the Tunga river at Thirthahalli on April 2

KIDS AT BIGGEST RISK

May 17: Three boys aged 13-16 years, including two brothers, drowned in a pond after they slipped and fell in due to slippery edges, in Achalu village, Ramanagara

May 6: Two minors, aged 11 and 14, drowned in river Netravathi, Mangaluru

Feb 29: Four 15-year-old boys, missing after an English preparatory exam, got bogged down in silt near a railway bridge, on the banks of river Nandini, near Haleangadi, Mangaluru

May 12: Two 3-year-old children drowned in water tanks, in separate incidents, in Belagavi

May 12: Three minors, aged 11 and 12, drowned in river Pandari in Belagavi, while attempting to swim

May 10: Four-year-old drowned in a water tank in Belagavi

Four boys, aged 11 to 13, drowned while attempting to catch fish while swimming, in Hassan district

May 15: 11-year-old girl drowned in Tilari Dam waters in Belagavi, while swimming with her father

Lack of swimming skills

Although 22 people have drowned in different parts of Kalaburagi district between January 1 and May 22, it cannot be conclusively said that all these cases were accidental. Many of them might have ended their lives by jumping into wells or other water bodies.

Kalaburagi SP Akshaya Halky said police have registered these cases as unnatural deaths, with the ages of the deceased ranging from 15 to 60 years. Sources in the district disaster management cell say that two people drowned due to the overflowing tanks or nalas in the past five months.

Dr Prabhukiran, a mental health expert at Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS), suggested that most of the drowning incidents might be suicide cases that many individuals contemplating suicide might change their minds at the last moment. In such instances, knowing how to swim could save their lives. He also advocated incorporating swimming into high school and college curriculum, suggesting that swimming skills would reduce drowning incidents.

(With inputs from Prakash Samaga/ Udupi, BK Lakshmikantha/ Mysuru, Ramakrishna Badseshi/ Kalaburagi, Ramachandra Gunari/ Shivamogga, Divya Cutinho/ Mangaluru, Naushad Bijapur/ Belagavi, and Subhash Chandra NS/ Uttara Kannada)

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

A spate of drowning cases across Karnataka has cast a shadow over the past few weeks. While many lost their lives after venturing into water bodies at tourist spots, several drowned in lakes and agricultural ponds in rural areas, with most of the deaths being accidents.

Experts say the primary cause of accidental drowning incidents is often the 'lack of adequate swimming skills' among people, and highlighted the importance of adhering to safety measures, especially around open water bodies like seas. Experts stressed that even if individuals are proficient swimmers in pools, the challenges posed by the currents, waves and other unpredictable factors in natural water settings require additional training and awareness.

Experts also pointed out that a significant number of drowning incidents occur around tourist spots, and recommended that schools should prioritise teaching swimming skills, particularly in rural areas where children frequently play near lakes and ponds.

While awareness can be raised through signs and other methods, it is crucial to understand the formidable force of water. "Often, people slip and then experience breathing difficulties, which can be fatal. In such scenarios, knowing how to swim could be life-saving," experts say.

BENGALURU RURAL

Selfies, vlogs a fatal obsession

Several incidents were recently reported from Bengaluru Rural and Ramanagara districts where youths lost their lives while enjoying themselves near water bodies with friends. Police officials said that most of these incidents happened because of the carelessness of those who entered the water without being aware of the factors that ultimately claimed their lives.

Contrary to common belief that most drowning cases are suicidal, data from Bengaluru Rural suggest that the majority are accidental. Till May this year, there were a total of 36 drowning cases, of which 30 were accidental and six were suicidal.

Bengaluru Rural SP Mallikarjun Baladandi mentioned that people often go in groups to tourist spots and engage in restricted activities to seek thrills, which tragically leads to loss of life. Moreover, the growing trend of recording vlogs or videos, and taking selfies at every location they visit sometimes proves fatal, as people fail to pay attention to their surroundings and can be swept away by waves or fall into water bodies.

MYSURU

High risk at tourist spots

Approximately 20 people have drowned in the river Cauvery in Mysuru region from January to mid-May, with most incidents occurring at tourist spots. Police authorities say that a majority of drowning incidents occur at picnic and religious sites such as Balmuri, Muthathi, KRS backwaters, Chunchanakatte falls, Sangama, Gaganachukki and Barachukki falls, and areas near the Cauvery river.

"Most of the fatalities involve young individuals who attempt to enter deep waters despite lacking swimming skills. Despite repeated warnings, people enter rivers and lakes and meet their end in watery accidents," an officer stated.

M Sukumar, a national-level swimmer and coach who represented Karnataka 29 times and is one of the country's top divers, emphasised that swimming lessons be mandated in schools and colleges. "The government made education compulsory, followed by compulsory physical education in schools. Now, there is a call for swimming to be included as part of education. This initiative will help reduce the number of drowning incidents in future," he said, and stressed the need for stringent measures around water bodies.

Sukumar insisted that everyone, including expert swimmers, should be prohibited from entering deep waters at tourist locations.

"Security personnel should be stationed to enforce this rule. Warning signs indicating water depth and hazards must be prominently displayed, and only those who are scientifically trained in swimming techniques involving proper breathing, arm movements and kicking should attempt to swim in areas with whirlpools or strong currents," he highlighted.

The most recent accident was reported on May 12 when 26-year-old Kaushik Chowdhury, an officer from the Bengaluru Military Training School, drowned in Gaganachukki falls in Malavalli taluk, Mandya district. He fell into the water while attempting to walk close to the waterfall, unaware of the depth.

UDUPI

Dangerous waves and currents

As per statistics from the Udupi district police office, there have been 56 drowning incidents in the district from January 1 to May 22, resulting in the death of 59 people. Of them, 51 were male and eight were female.

Commenting on drowning at sea, experts said there is a misconception about swimming in the sea, and that it requires significant experience and skill beyond basic swimming ability.

Swimming coach Gangadhar G Kadekar stressed that swimming in the sea without a lifeguard is unsafe, and that contrary to common belief, waves not only push people towards the shore but also pull them into deeper water, posing significant risks.

He cautioned that the confidence gained from swimming in pools or ponds may not be sufficient for swimming in the sea or even near the beach, and warned that even a minor cramp could invalidate all prior estimates of swimmers.

Diving expert Eshwar Malpe stated that during a recent meeting with Udupi Deputy Commissioner Dr K Vidyakumari, he had proposed several measures to prevent drowning incidents in the district and emphasised the importance of children learning to swim by the age of 11 or from Class 5, noting that this training can significantly reduce the risk of drowning.

SHIVAMOGGA

Hazardous modern agriculture ponds

Modern agricultural ponds, covered with thick polythene sheets to prevent water seepage, are now prevalent in rural areas. The polythene sheets were introduced to store water for crops during both winter and summer. However, this cloacks the natural edges that once offered support to individuals who fell into ponds.

As a result of this modern-day practice, two youths, aged 16 and 28, died in Channahalli village near Kumsi of Shivamogga taluk on May 23, after they slipped and fell into a 12-ft deep agricultural pond. Despite their efforts, they were unable to climb out of the pond and drowned.

Nanjesh Kumar, a farmer from Muddinakoppa village, said that earlier, natural ponds provided edges as handy support for those who fell in, but with modern agricultural ponds covered by thick plastic sheets, that support is no longer available. "The only effective way to rescue someone who falls into these ponds is to have a rope or other means ready to pull them out immediately," he suggested.

Post June 4, state BJP likely to see some big changes

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka BJP unit is likely to see a large-scale revamp in the coming months, perhaps in August-September. The sudden exit of the state unit's organising general secretary Rajeshji is only the beginning of large-scale changes to come.

Sources suggest that the two power centres -- BL Santosh and BS Yediyurappa -- may both be relegated to the sidelines. The changes are expected to be implemented after the parliamentary poll results. Inside feedback from the party has indicated that the BJP is likely to win 15-16 seats, and the Congress may win 12-13 seats.

The central leadership is also working on change in leadership in Haryana and Madhya Pradesh, an indication that the party is seeking to strengthen itself nationally. The present challenges facing its NDA partner Janata Dal (S) may be a disadvantage for the BJP in the short term, but "we will emerge stronger", said a source within the BJP who preferred to remain anonymous.

The BJP, that has claimed to be a disciplined party, has seen indiscipline and rebellion in the past few months. Former DCM KS Eshwarappa who had earlier made veiled attempts at indiscipline with the Sangoli Rayanna Brigade, has openly revolted. There have been other internal feuds and rebellions too, with the most recent by three-term MLA Raghupathi Bhat, who was expelled from the party after his outright revolt.

When contacted, Raghupathi Bhat told *TNIE*, "I was the most disciplined in the party. But as sitting MLA, after I was denied the assembly ticket for unexplained reasons in 2023, I spoke to the party leadership who assured me that I would be made a council member. When this was also denied to me and a rank junior was brought in my place, I was left with few options." He said when a party adopts non-transparent processes and procedures to select candidates, revolt is the only option.

The central leadership has taken all this into consideration and factored in challenges of caste and a strong Congress presence, as it goes in for a revamp. A party functionary said that until now, there was a triangular contest in Karnataka, but with the JDS weakening, it could be a straight fight between the BJP and Congress in the coming days, and the party is equipping itself for that change.

Party sources said the central leadership is looking at Karnataka more clearly now and will not fall into the trap of lies and half-truths being carried to Delhi by some leaders with their own hidden agendas.

Custodial death probe handed over to CID

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Davanagere

THE Criminal Investigation Department (CID) will take over the investigation into the alleged death of a man in police custody in Channagiri on Friday, said Superintendent of Police Uma Prashanth here on Sunday.

She said the district police have arrested 25 persons for vandalising the police station, attacking police personnel and damaging police vehicles, based on video evidence available with the police. The accused have been charged under Sections 353 and 307 of IPC and were produced before court, which has handed them over to judicial custody. The accused are from Nalluru, Honnebaagi and Channagiri.

They were part of a mob that attacked the police station after an arrested person, Adil, died in police custody.

The postmortem on Adil's body was conducted in the presence of a judge on Saturday and the report is expected in three days. The report will reveal the real cause of Adil's death, she said.

Channagiri DySP Prashanth Munnoli has obtained all information on those who attacked the police station, in which 11 police personnel suffered injuries.

Six complaints have been registered over vandalising the police station, injuring police personnel and damaging police vehicles, she said.

Channagiri, which was tense over the custodial death, returned to normal on Sunday. Additional police personnel from neighbouring Chitradurga, Davanagere and Shivamogga have been deployed in town, the SP said.

Five police teams, formed to investigate the incident, are going through CCTV footage and public videos to identify the culprits. As many as 40 attackers have been identified till now, she said.

The police on Friday arrested Adil (33) from Tippunagar of Channagiri taluk for allegedly organising a matka racket and died in police custody. The police claimed that he died of seizure. But his relatives alleged that he was tortured to death in police custody. Soon after the news of his death spread, a large group of people vandalised the police station and attacked policemen.

The SP had on Saturday said Adil was at the police station only for six to seven minutes and he developed a health complication. He was rushed to hospital where he died. But the police do not have any video footage to substantiate their claims.

EXPRESS READ

Dr G: All security given to sex scandal victims

Bengaluru: THE state government is providing all protection to victims of the Hassan sex scandal case, and senior police officials in Hassan have been directed in this regard by both CM Siddaramaiah and himself, said Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara. "We will not allow anyone to put pressure on the victims and mislead the investigation," he told reporters here on Sunday. The government has already directed the Hassan district Superintendent of Police and the Range IGP to ensure the safety of the victims. Efforts are also on to zero-in on the real culprits in this case. "We cannot name anyone just like that. Only after the investigation, we will get to know who the people behind this are and who distributed the pendrives," he said. **ENS**

Unaffected by Prajwal case, BJP-JDS alliance going strong for Council polls

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

UNAFFECTED by Hassan JDS MP Prajwal Revanna's alleged sex scandal, the JDS-BJP alliance seems to be going strong with six MLC seats — three each of graduates and teachers constituencies — going to the polls on June.3.

Leaders from both parties held a coordination committee meeting here on Sunday where they resolved to win all the seats and teach Congress a lesson. As the prestige of former prime minister HD Deve Gowda and Prime Minister Narendra Modi are at stake, with Congress attacking them in Prajwal's case, the leadership of both parties has melded strongly, sources said.

To snub DCM and KPCC president DK Shivakumar and his brother and Bengaluru Rural MP DK Suresh, the Vokkaliga leadership from both parties is putting up a united front, like it did during the campaigning for the Bengaluru Rural Lok Sabha election, held in the second phase on April 26.

Prajwal's scandal broke out just a couple of days before the second phase of LS polls and he fled to Germany after casting his vote. The scandal is at the centre of the latest slugfest between HD Kumaraswamy and Shivakumar, with the former chief minister alleging that the KPCC president is behind distributing pen drives, containing obscene videos allegedly of Prajwal.

JDS state president HD Kumaraswamy, Leader of Opposition R Ashoka and other leaders at the coordination meeting, in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

The Council polls have provided an immediate opportunity for the alliance, especially JDS, to settle scores with Shivakumar. The delay in Prajwal's return has also turned into a blessing for the regional party, which otherwise would have been used by Congress in the Council polls, political analysts said.

BJP state president BY Vijayendra, and those from Vokkaliga community, including senior leader CT Ravi, Leader of Opposition R Ashoka, former DCM Dr CN Ashwathnarayan, and JDS leaders Kumaraswamy and GT Devegowda are campaigning together in the Old Mysuru region, which is the Vokkaliga bastion. "If our alliance continues, Congress will get whitewashed in the future Assembly elections. No survey is required to predict the results. We will give them the 'chombu' (the empty urn). This was why Congress conspired to break our alliance by alleging that Kumaraswamy was behind the circulation of pen drives," Ashoka said.

The prestige of Shivakumar, also a Vokkaliga, too is at stake as Bengaluru Graduates' seat (BBMP Central, North, South, Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru Urban and Ramanagara districts), South Teachers' (Chamarajanagar, Hassan, Mandya and Mysuru) and South East Teachers' (Chikkaballapur, Chitradurga, Kolar, Tumakuru and Davanagere) fall under the Old Mysuru region.

CONG AT IT AGAIN, HANDING OUT CASH, GIFTS TO VOTERS: HDK

Bengaluru: JDS state president and former CM HD Kumaraswamy on Sunday accused the Congress of distributing cash and gifts to electorates to ensure victory in the June 3 Council polls to six seats. "As it did in the assembly and Lok Sabha polls, Congress is polluting these polls too by trying to entice teacher and graduate voters with money, gifts and coupons. Officials have already raided many places and seized gift boxes," he said at the JDS-BJP coordination meeting for Bengaluru graduate constituency NDA candidate A Deve Gowda. "The JDS-BJP alliance is historic. This alliance has been welcomed by workers of both parties and is expected to give good dividends," he said. **ENS**

Even as Cyclone Remal forced rescheduling of rallies in Odisha, PM Modi will address 3 public meetings on May 29. Union minister Amit Shah's campaign was also moved to May 28. AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge, and Rahul Gandhi will also campaign for the party on May 29 and 30, for the final phase of polls

FINAL LEG OF POLLS

BJP leader in Odisha damages EVM, assaults officers, held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bhubaneswar

KHURDA Police arrested BJP leader Prasanta Kumar Jagadev for allegedly damaging an electronic voting machine (EVM) and manhandling polling officers at a booth in Bolagarh during the third phase elections on Saturday.ADG Law and Order Sanjay Kumar, who rushed to the spot to take stock of the situation, said Jagadev was booked under various sections of IPC, Representation of the People Act and Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act.

Investigation is on to establish if Prasanta Jagadev went to the booth alone or with some of his associates. CCTV footage of the booth is being examined and further action will be taken accordingly. The chargesheet of the case will be filed at the earliest, said Kumar. "Jagadev was sent to judicial custody till June 7," said DIG Awinash Kumar, who is Khurda SP.

Sources said the police are also investigating an alleged provocative speech of Jagadev which he made a few days before the third phase of polls. "The video of Jagadev's public address is doing rounds on social media. Efforts are on to obtain it and ascertain whether he threatened the police or made any other provocative statement," said a senior police officer.

Khurda Police said they arrested Jagadev as they have clear evidence against him of creating ruckus inside polling booth - 114 at Kaunripatana upper primary school in Bolagarh which comes under Begunia assembly constituency. Police said Jagadev had visited the booth in Kaunripatana to cast his vote and he stayed there for quite sometime before creating ruckus.

He is accused of kicking the table on which the EVM was kept after which the ballot unit fell down. During the altercation, there was an error in the control unit and new sets of EVM had to be deployed but then the voting continued peacefully. In the webcasting system at the polling booth, Jagadev can be seen manhandling a woman polling staff and the presiding officer. The polling process was disrupted for sometime because of his hooliganism, said the police.

However, Jagadev's supporters claimed the allegations leveled against him are politically motivated. This is not for the first time that Jagadev is in news for wrong reasons.

● After hitting coastal districts, rain to intensify further ● Cyclone Remal makes landfall at midnight

9 killed as rain wreaks havoc in Telangana

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

NINE persons died in the state on Sunday as gusty winds and heavy rain wreaked havoc in several districts. Seven persons died in the Nagarkurnool district and two in the Vikarabad district.

Four persons, including a 10-year-old girl, died on the spot when the compound wall of an under-construction dairy farm fell on them in Tandur in Nagarkurnool district. Four sustained injuries in the incident.

The deceased were identified as the owner of the farm Belle Mallesh (38), his daughter Anusha (10) and two workers, S Ramulu (35) and his wife Chennamma (34). Mallesh's wife Parvathamma and workers Raju, Chinna Nagulu and Kumuraiah sustained injuries. As the condition of Chinna Nagulu was critical, he was shifted to a hospital in Hyderabad. The remaining three were admitted to the Nagarkunrool government hospital.

Meanwhile, a 12-year-old boy, Dandu Lakshman, died when lightning struck in Telakapalli mandal in Nagarkurnool district. Another person, Jaipal Naik, suffered injuries when lightning struck at Nukalachinta tanda in Nagarkurnool. Venu (38), a driver from Vikarabad, died when iron sheds fell on him and lightning claimed the life of a person at Nandivaddeman Palli in Bijinapally mandal in the district.

Meanwhile, two persons died and three were injured when the wall of a poultry farm collapsed at Kshirasagar in Mulugu mandal of Siddipet district.

Good monsoon this year, will arrive in K'taka on June 5: IMD

Bengaluru: The India Meteorological Department's (IMD) latest forecast brings a glimmer of hope for Bengaluru and other districts facing severe water shortage. As per the latest IMD forecast, Karnataka is expected to experience a good monsoon season, which will greatly impact the agricultural sector and significantly help alleviate water scarcity in these regions. Earlier, IMD forecast indicated an early onset of monsoon in Karnataka, starting May 31. However, the latest forecast predicts that monsoon in Karnataka will begin around June 5. All districts of the state, including Bengaluru, will continue to receive isolated and scattered rains for the next five days, till May 31, CS Patil, said a meteorologist at IMD. This year, all districts across Karnataka are expected to receive high intensity rainfall, which will be distributed evenly, particularly in Coastal Karnataka and South Interior Karnataka. However, there is a possibility that the monsoon could be delayed by another four to five days if there are changes due to cyclonic activity.

Cyclone Remal: 4 Odisha dists to be affected

PTI @ Bhubaneswar

THE Meteorological department has issued heavy rainfall warning for four districts of Odisha in the wake of Cyclone Remal approaching the coast.

Under its impact, heavy rainfall of 7 to 11 cm has been predicted for Bhadrak, Balasore, Kendrapara and Mayurbhanj districts.

Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Satyabrata Sahu reviewed the preparations made by the collectors of the four districts in view of the warning, officials said.

Around 20,000 fishing boats were safely berthed and collectors of the four districts were instructed to use Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) and fire services in case a situation arises, they said. Sahu said that rain has already started in the coastal districts, since Sunday morning, and it will only intensify, with the cyclone making landfall by Sunday midnight.

Girls try to cross a water-logged road as rain lashes Bhubaneswar on Sunday, even as Cyclone Remal made land fall on Sunday midnight

The IMD has hoisted local cautionary signal number 3 at Paradip and Chandbali ports and distant warning signal number 2 (DW-II) for Gopalpur and Puri ports.

According to the department, Cyclone Remal has strengthened into a severe cyclonic storm and is expected to hit the coasts of Bangladesh and West Bengal by Sunday midnight, with winds of 110-120 kmph and gusting up to 135 kmph.

Remal, moving northward, is likely to intensify further before crossing the coasts between Sagar Island (West Bengal) and Khepupara (Bangladesh), near the southwest of Mongla port, around midnight on Sunday, the weather office reported.

According to a bulletin by the department, surface wind speed reaching 40-50 kmph would prevail at a few places over the districts of Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Dhenkanal, Puri, Khurda, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, and Jagatsinghpur till 8.30 am on Monday.

Squally wind speed reaching 50-60 kmph, gusting up to 70 kmph, is likely to prevail till Monday morning, it said.

Man-animal conflict to be addressed after MCC is lifted: TTD

Tirumala: Of the total Rs 3.75 crore allocated by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) to address the man-animal conflict in Tirumala, only Rs 75 lakh has been utilised so far. The work was stopped after MCC was imposed in Andhra Pradesh. Forest Department officials asserted that works will be resumed with the remaining amount, once the MCC is lifted. Srivari temple Trust allocated the fund following the rise in man-animal conflicts on trekking paths. Since May 15, leopards were spotted in the area at least five times, and sloth bears were spotted at least twice.

13 fall ill after drinking contaminated water

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

THIRTEEN people fell ill after consuming contaminated water supplied through the pipeline at Muduvenahalli near Kollegal, just days after a person died because of the same reason in Mysuru district.

In the latest incident, villagers, suffering from vomiting and diarrhoea, were shifted to Kollegal and were also treated at the primary health centre. They had complained of turning dark. Sewage and rainwater entering the borewells could be the reason for contamination, they said.

Deputy Commissioner Shilpa Nag visited the village and directed officials to supply water in tankers. She told them to collect water samples for testing. She said the majority of those admitted to hospital have recovered, while three are still being treated and they too will be discharged soon.

The villagers demanded that sanitation should be improved and clean water supplied to them.

People being treated at the health centre

Six of family die in Hassan road accident

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hassan

SIX people of a family died on the spot in a head-on collision between a car and a truck near Hassan, during the wee hours of Sunday.

The accident took place when the family was returning from Mangaluru to Karahalli village, Bengaluru Rural. The car first hit a divider, and toppled to the right of the road, where an oncoming truck rammed into it.

Hassan SP Mohamed Sujeeta who rushed to inspect the spot, and shifted the dead bodies to the mortuary in Hassan Institute of Medical Sciences (HIMS). The deceased have been identified as Narayanappa (56), his wife Sunanda (48), Ravikumar (45), his wife Netra (39), his son Chetan (12) and Rakesh (28) who was driving the car.

They were returning after getting treatment for Narayanappa, who had suffered a stroke. Rash driving and negligence by the drivers of both the vehicles is said to be the cause of the accident. The police had a tough time removing the bodies from the car, as all six bodies were jammed in the wreckage.

Cambodia trafficking racket: 2 more held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Visakhapatnam

VISAKHAPATNAM Police arrested two more agents involved in the human trafficking racket, in which, unemployed youth were lured with lucrative job opportunities in Chinese companies in countries like Cambodia, Myanmar, and Thailand. The two accused have been identified as Kolukula Veerandranath (37) and Kommu Praveen Kumar. Veerandranath, an engineering graduate from Gajuwaka, promised substantial commissions for sending computer system operators to Cambodia.

Since 2023, Veerandranath has sent 17 youngsters with computer skills and good English speaking abilities to Cambodia on the pretext of legitimate employment. They were charged ₹1 lakh to ₹1.2 lakh each, of which ₹30,000 was retained by Veerandranath as commission.

Once in Cambodia, these youngsters were sold to Chinese companies for $2,500 to $4,000 each, depending on their skills, with Veerandranath receiving ₹30,000 to ₹40,000 per person. These companies would then detain the youngsters in dark rooms, compelling them to commit various cyber crimes using pre-written scripts. Those who resisted were tortured and deprived of food and water. Visakhapatnam police have formed special teams to trace the main perpetrators behind the network.

Format C-2

Declaration about criminal antecedents of candidates set up by the party

(As per the judgment dated 25th September, 2018 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)

Name of Political Party : **BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY**

Name of Election : **BIENNIAL ELECTION TO THE KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

Name of State/ UT : **KARNATAKA**

1.	2.	3.	4.		5.	
Sl. No.	Name of candidate	Name of constituency	Pending criminal cases		Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences	
			Name of Court, Case No. & status of the case(s)	Sections of the Acts concerned & brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date (s) of order (s)	Description of offence (s) & punishment imposed
1	Sri Amaranatha Patil	North East Graduates	II Addl Dist. Session Judge, Kalaburagi Spcl C No. 418/2011 Closed Since the closer of the case culminating in acquittal, the same is challenged by the complainant before the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka, Kalaburagi in Cr. Appeal No. 200079/2015 and the same is pending	U/ss. 143,147,323,333,353,342,504,506, 149 IPC and Sec. 3(1) (X) SC/ST (PA) 1989 Abusing the caste of the complainant is alleged	NA	NA
2	Sri Dhananjay Sarji	South West Graduates	Addl. Civil Judge & JMFC at Bhadravathi Cr. No. 171/22 Pending	18(a) (vi) R/w Rule 65(9) (a) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940, Punishable U/S 27 (d) Sale of drug in contravention of the provisions of the I Chapter R/w Rules	NA	NA
3	Sri A. Devegowda	Bangalore Graduates	III ACMM Bangalore C.C.No. 13525/2016 Pending	U/s 477, 420, 120B, 114 R/w 34 of IPC Alleging criminal Conspiracy and Cheating	NA	NA

(Lokesh Ambekallu)
State Office Secretary
Bharatiya Janata Party - Karnataka

EDITORIAL

"Times can blind us to certain truths and later generations can see that laws once thought necessary and proper in fact serve only to oppress" — Anthony Kennedy

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

WAKE-UP CALL FOR FIRE SAFETY FROM GUJARAT'S HORROR HOLIDAY

WEEKEND amusement at a gaming arcade in Gujarat's Rajkot went horribly wrong as at least 28 holidayers, including nine children, were charred to death in a sudden blaze. Hours later, six newborns died in a massive fire at a children's hospital in Delhi. A few days ago, a boiler blast at a chemicals factory in Maharashtra's Dombivli killed more than 10 workers and left many others injured. Preliminary probe into the Rajkot fire traced its source to sparks from some welding work on the premises. The holiday crowd got trapped as basic fire safety protocols like adequate extinguishers, emergency exits, and trained personnel for quick evacuation appeared to be missing in the sprawling TRP game zone. The blazing hot sun beating down on the air conditioned multi-storeyed temporary structure built using metal and fibreglass and encased in tin sheets made it a tinderbox. Taking *suo motu* cognisance of the holiday horror, the Gujarat High Court called it a man-made tragedy as reports suggested the Gujarat Comprehensive General Development Control Regulations were bent to create the temporary structures. Whether or not it had the paperwork to run the facility, like a no-objection certificate from the fire safety department, is a matter of investigation. A special investigation team set up by the Gujarat government has already begun the probe. As for the Delhi hospital, it too is said to have lacked regulatory clearances. Exploding oxygen cylinders within the premises made the intervention of fire safety personnel risky. A few of the rescued babies are recuperating at another hospital.

While the owner and manager of the Rajkot facility have been arrested, the administrative machinery in the city must be held accountable if it is found that they let it function without clearances. Likewise, the Delhi and Maharashtra administrations must be taken to task. Only a quick and transparent probe as well as exemplary punishment would act as a deterrent for the brazen circumventing of norms. Mercifully, all gaming centres across Gujarat have been ordered shut for a fire safety audit. Other states, too, could follow suit.

While the governments announced ex-gratia reliefs, the matter should not end there. Revisiting fire safety codes is a national imperative, more so as the heat wave sweeping the country has a multiplier effect on the risk of fire hazards. There can be no loss of innocent lives to satisfy the greed of a few.

GOVT SHOULDN'T STRETCH RBI'S RESERVES TOO THIN

THE markets have cheered the Reserve Bank of India's decision to transfer a record surplus of almost ₹2.11 lakh crore to the government coffer. First of all, the bonanza will give the exchequer enough fiscal leg room in the current financial year. The bumper surplus transfer also means lower borrowings and, therefore, more benign yields on government securities. This could, in turn, mean lower interest rate in the near future. These benefits, however, should not make the government lose sight of the fact that such large transfer of RBI surplus has its own downsides. The government should be wary of stretching thin the central bank's reserve, which at times is testament to the strength of the economy. The strength of RBI's balance sheet often plays a decisive role in getting funds from international agencies like the IMF.

The RBI's surplus transfer for FY24 is 2.5 times that of the previous year. The government had budgeted for ₹1.02 lakh crore dividend from the RBI and PSU banks. However, the surplus transfer turned out to be more than double that, touching 0.35% of the GDP. The government can, therefore, hope to bring down its FY25 fiscal deficit to below 5% from the budgeted target of 5.1% of the GDP. The Centre can continue with its high capex focus without worrying too much about the fiscal situation. The additional dividend also increases the chances of the government achieving the 4.5% fiscal glide path by FY26. This should bolster India's case for a rating upgrade.

By all means, the higher-than-expected RBI dividend signifies many positives for the economy, including lower yields on government bonds that should reduce the cost of capital for private sector as well. However, the government must not over-exploit the central bank's reserves and surpluses. The surplus transfer does fulfil the Bimal Jalan Committee recommendations, yet the government's over-dependence on RBI resources to plug fiscal leakages raises many moral questions. It also gives it an excuse for being fiscally 'irresponsible' without consequences. This should not be a permanent solution for any government's fiscal profligacy. The RBI has emerged as a strong and mature central bank globally, and the credit to this goes to its conservatism. Any laxity in this approach may not serve India in the long term.

QUICK TAKE

SAME WOOD, DIFFERENT TREES

THE same week Payal Kapadia made Indian filmdom proud by winning the Cannes Grand Prix with her elegy on two women's lives, new research showed how stodgily regressive the average Bollywood and Hollywood plotlines have been on societal issues. A team led by Sunny Rai of University of Pennsylvania and Kushang Zaveri of Mahindra University used AI to scour through 5,000 movie themes. They found that while Bollywood mostly focused on shame, especially concerning female sexuality, Hollywood tended to scorn poverty. The likes of Kapadia are reminding us that formulaic flicks are not the best way forward. The many-hued indie film movement must be nurtured to bloom.

In no state where the ruling party is in power or in a coalition, or even at the Centre, has any politician been investigated under the PMLA. This only seems to happen in opposition-ruled states

THE MISUSE OF DRACONIAN LAWS FOR POLITICAL GAIN

KAPIL SIBAL

Senior lawyer and member of Rajya Sabha. He is also the counsel for Hemant Soren

SOURAV ROY

OUR Constitution is quasi-federal. This was a historical necessity. When it was adopted, the princely states integrated into the Republic continued to have elements which, in the absence of a strong Union, could have disturbed our constitutional enterprise. In a country as large as India with a population of 1.4 billion, the epicentre of power in Delhi makes it difficult for states to develop at their own pace considering their unique needs and priorities. The flow of finances to states is largely controlled by the Union.

Despite the manner in which resources are to be shared between the Union and states as allocated by each Finance Commission every five years, the Union continues to garner additional resources through imposition of cess and other levies that it need not share with the states. Being the recipient of a large share of revenues, states are not given enough independent economic space to cater to their needs. The Union government, along with the Reserve Bank of India, is the arbiter of their destiny.

But a far more serious issue that confronts the federal structure of the nation today relates to the rampant misuse of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA). It is evident from the manner in which the investigation arm, the Directorate of Enforcement (ED), has been functioning under the present government. The situation has been exacerbated by a judgement of the Supreme Court, allowing for its rampant misuse.

The PMLA is perhaps the most draconian law in the history of India. Preventive detention laws, which were often used at one time, still provided for procedural safeguards that are absent in this legislation. The Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1987 (TADA), another draconian law, targeted individuals, not states. Similarly, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA), is person and organisation centric. Both the erstwhile TADA and the present UAPA essentially sought to prosecute those who, through their alleged acts of violence, destabilised or attempted to destabilise the state. In contrast, the PMLA, by targeting individuals associated with the opposition party in power in states, is destabilising the federal structure of this country. The following analysis of the PMLA and its focused application will demonstrate this fact.

Under the PMLA, the ED, under the control of the Union, can access any state to investigate the alleged offence of money laundering. This can only be done if an offence alleged to have been committed is part of the offences specified in the Schedule to the PMLA. Such an offence is called the 'predicate offence'. If the offence generates a monetary benefit, it is referred to as the 'proceeds of crime'. What happens on the ground is that the moment a predicate offence takes place in a state—which is a scheduled offence like cheating (420), forgery (467 – 471) and other offences under the Indian Penal Code like murder (302), culpable homicide not amounting to murder (304), along with violations of provisions of enumerated statutes—the ED, though not obliged to, registers, in its discretion, what is called an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR). This gives it the right to enter that state and start investigating the offence of money laundering.

It is appropriate to explain that monies generated from the predicate offence are proceeds of crime and using those proceeds by projecting them as untainted money is 'money laundering'. By virtue of the explanation added to the definition of money laundering through the Finance Act, 2019, it in effect alters the meaning of money laundering. The added explanation obliterates the distinction between proceeds of crime and money laundering. Therefore, under the law as it stands today, the proceeds of crime and money laundering allow the ED to enter any state to investigate the offence. This has serious implications on the federating units in our country and the independence of state governments.

There are numerous instances of motivated investigations intended to destabilise regimes in states where the opposition is in power. This has led to divisive litigation between the Union and the states, wherein the states believe the ED is targeting and destabilising them at the behest of the Centre. In Tamil Nadu, for example, the ED has asked for information about all FIRs registered in the state. The obvious intent is to ferret out cases that can be investigated. The ED has also sought information about illegal sand mining, which is not even a part of the schedule of offences under the PMLA.

The modus operandi of the ED is to enter a state the moment a predicate offence is committed and ask the state government to share with the Union the details it seeks. If the complaint is filed or an FIR is registered with respect to a scheduled offence, the ED enters and starts investigating any involvement of the accused named or unnamed. Even though the predicate offence has not resulted in a chargesheet and is at the initial stage of investigation, the ED merrily starts arresting persons. Once arrested, it is impossible for the accused to secure bail because of the stringent legal provisions wherein the court has to come to the conclusion that the accused is not guilty of the offence.

These provisions are being misused in opposition-ruled states wherein incumbent chief ministers find themselves in jail. State politicians and bureaucrats find themselves at the mercy of the ED. So, at the stage of investigation of the predicate offence itself, the ED gets into the act and starts targeting people, including chief ministers and others. This is how both Hemant Soren and Arvind Kejriwal find themselves in jail. Very convenient for the ruling dispensation in the midst of elections!

In no state where the ruling party is in power or is in a coalition government with other parties, or even at the Centre, has any politician been investigated or arrested under the PMLA.

In the case of Kejriwal, no money trail using proceeds of crime has been established. In the case of Hemant Soren, the allegation is of forcibly occupying land which, even if true, is not a predicate offence.

There are multiple other examples of such rampant misuse of laws and the investigating machinery under the present dispensation.

(Views are personal)
(Tweets @KapilSibal)

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GANGA AS ONE OF OUR HOLIEST RIVERS

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

WITH the spotlight on Kashi for reasons we all know, it's interesting to look again at its cultural significance. Some come to Kashi to die a 'holy death' with the surety of salvation. Death itself is known as 'Kashi *Labh*', the 'Profit of Kashi', while Kalbhairav, the city's fierce guardian deity, is addressed as '*Kala-kala*', the 'Death of death', like his master Shiva.

For at least over three millennia, every Hindu pilgrim to Kashi carried away a small sealed copper pot or two of Ganga water to his far corner of the sub-continent. The pot is kept in his prayer nook or room. Every time there is a death in the family, the seal is broken and a few drops of Gangajal are poured into the dying person's mouth for his or her salvation. The pots have been steadily replaced by each generation, so the Ganga may literally be found in every Hindu home across India.

No wonder there were salty local sayings about this never-ending ebb and flow of humanity in Varanasi. The modern satirical poet 'Bedhab' Banarasi joked, '*Bedhab kabhon na chhodiyo aisi Kashi dham/ Marne pe Ganga miley, jeete langra aam.*' 'Never leave a place like Kashi, Bedhab, where dying, you have the Ganga, and alive, langra mangoes'.

When in Kashi, this rush of associations made me run impulsively to the Ganga's sandy edge across from the ghats and wade in deeper and deeper until I could swim a few strokes. My modest cotton tunic and pants ballooned comically in the water and a few people in wooden boats some distance away looked at me for a moment, but only for a moment, since Kashi has seen everybody and everything. A soft plop to the other side made me turn my head swiftly. A small, sleek brown body dived down and I was just in time to catch that veriest glimpse of a Gangetic dolphin.

Treading water, I looked back at the ghats with the illusion of being right in the middle of the broadly curving river, filled by a sense of deep connectedness. It was a sodden, sandy business going back, but the epiphany was worth it. I understood why Adi Sankara, the pillar of Hinduism, rushed forward in exhilaration at his first glimpse and hurled himself into the river, crying, "Mother! Your child from the South has come to you!" I had laughed scornfully at this story as a cool undergrad at Delhi University. But to actually be in the river was quite another thing. The centuries were on the Ganga's side and it was part of my 'hard-wiring'. There was no escaping that hold.

This uncontrollable rush of joy towards the Ganga was not unique to me or my infinitely saintlier predecessors. Such spontaneous leaps are not unusual in a regular Hindu pilgrim or even a reluctant one, nor in a suddenly-overtaken casual visitor, for

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> One can witness Ganga's girlish, joyful dance as she tumbles down the mountains through Rishikesh before entering the plains, where she sobers in her flow. From Haridwar, she turns positively wide and matronly as she proceeds further eastwards to Bengal and the sea

the idea of the Ganga is imbibed "with mother's milk", as the saying goes, and celebrated through story, song and prayer in almost every Indian language. The callous modern disregard for the physicality of the river is therefore hard to understand.

Meanwhile, the pilgrim party never stops along the Ganga's banks. It begins at its icy Himalayan source, Gomukh, with offerings of flowers. As the Ganga makes her way from the snowline down to pine forests, the pilgrim presence picks up volume with many sacred chants at the ashrams along its banks at Rishikesh. While the soul-seekers meditate, chant and pray on the riverbank, another kind of party goes on in the river itself.

Hooting and hollering, river rafters and kayakers bounce on the Ganga between the bronzed rocks on the wilder stretches of the river, in and out of rapids with terrifying names like 'Golf Course' and 'Three Blind Mice'. I, too, have been river-rafting on that stretch from Rishikesh to Haridwar, to experience the Ganga's girlish, joyful dance as she tumbles down the mountains and enters the plains, where she suddenly sobers in her flow. From Haridwar, she turns positively wide and matronly as she proceeds further across the endless hot and dusty plains eastwards to Bengal and the sea. Hindus say she swells as she goes with the increasing load of human sin washed away in her as she flows from tirtha to tirtha (a holy place by the water).

The meeting of the Ganga with the sea at journey's end is considered a mystic moment. However, in a quirky link with the English who founded Calcutta on the Ganga's estuary, I experienced the river not from a pilgrim place but from a river warden's boat. The river warden wore a white uniform and a black kepi and his face was wrinkled around the eyes from years of peering intently at the river and its banks, taking in details others would probably not notice. He knew every inch of the river on his stretch, every rock hidden in the riverbed, every shifting sand bank, every tide.

"Do you pray to the Ganga?" I ventured when a silent camaraderie of sorts was established after twenty minutes or so of peacefully watching the river. The warden grinned. "I'm a child of this river, as much as any Bhishma. I am the Ganga, an indivisible part of her while alive. And one day, my ashes will float on her waves and disappear into her." He chuckled when I shared a very in-house Hindu verse with him from the river's upper reaches: 'Before you come here in a pot or a jar/Do spend some time alive in Haridwar'.

Chop and change as we may, there's no evading the fact that our personal journeys have never ceased to flow with the Ganga.

(Views are personal)
(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Counterproductive comments

Ref: *Mighty Modi takes on peaceable Patnaik* (May 26). Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik, who has been ruling the state since 2000, now faces a formidable challenge from the BJP but is quietly confident of keeping the saffron party at bay. Discounting the fighting skills of the BJD patriarch, who has already served five terms in office, could prove very costly. The unsavoury references to former IAS officer V K Pandian by the PM could prove counterproductive.
C V Aravind, Chennai

People's hypocrisy

As long as Naveen Patnaik was perceived to be allied with Modi, he was anathema to many people, but now that they are fighting each other in Odisha, previously unknown virtues are being suddenly uncovered.
Hemanth D Pai, Bengaluru

Voter participation

Ref: *62% turnout in crucial 6th phase* (May 26). It looks like 40% of people didn't bother to use their right of franchise and took the exercise casually despite the government's appeals. It seems nothing can be done to motivate people to go to polling booths. Maybe PM Modi, hopefully in his third term in office, will evolve some out-of-box solution for this issue.
K Nehru Patnaik, Visakhapatnam

Delayed numbers

Ref: *EC releases absolute poll numbers for 5 phases* (May 26). After a prolonged reluctance, it is pleasing that the ECI finally disclosed the number of votes cast. What is displeasing is that it took two months to disclose the exact figures in the age of technology. The ECI must discharge its duty without will or favour to enhance the trust in the electoral process.
M Rishidev, Dindigul

Unsafe structure

Ref: *4 kids among 27 killed in Rajkot fire* (May 26). How did civic authorities allow such a big gaming mall with a roof made of fibre to operate without getting a proper NOC from the fire department? This is the second big accident in Gujarat after the Morbi bridge collapse in which 141 people died.
P Victor Selvaraj, Palayamkottai

No accountability

Every time these incidents take place, it is customary for the government concerned to order audits at similar locations. A blame game starts, and finally no one is held accountable. Only innocents are punished. It is important to make accountable the entire government machinery for giving permissions callously or those who have allowed it to function if permission was not given.
Venkata Kapardee Mallajosyula, Vizag

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Smriti Z Irani @smritiiriani
Decline, despair, and disarray define Punjab today. The state needs leadership with proven competencies and abilities to deliver.

Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
Himachal's apple farmers are being looted by the 'price fixing' going on in partnership between Narendra Modi, Adani and the media.

Mamata Banerjee @MamataOfficial
From the very start of the 6th phase of the Lok Sabha election, BJP was on the back foot. True to form, they used undemocratic means to dissuade voters from exercising their franchise.

■ Modi focuses on eastern UP constituencies that vote on June 1 ■ Centre didn't help during Himachal floods: Cong

PM: Attempt to tinker with quota for SC/STs

SP had announced that 15% reservation will be given to Muslims in police and PAC also. These people are bent on snatching the rights of SCs, STs and OBCs to please their vote bank

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

NAMITA BAJPAI & ANURAAG SINGH @ Lucknow/Varanasi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that the INDIA bloc parties are conniving to snatch the reservation of SCs, STs and OBCs guaranteed by the Constitution of India, by altering the provisions and making it religion-based to appease their vote bank.

He addressed three back-to-back rallies in Mau, Mirzapur and Deoria to seek support for NDA candidates of Ghosi, Ballia, Salempur, Robertsganj, and Bansgaon, including Anupriya Patel of Apna Dal (S) from Mirzapur. The seats will go to polls in the last phase.

The PM said that first-time voters might not be recalling the Samajwadi Party's 2012 UP assembly poll manifesto, which stated that as Dr BR Ambedkar gave reservation to SCs and STs, similar reservation will be given to Muslims.

"This is against the spirit of the Constitution, but INDIA bloc does not care," Modi said in Mau. "SP had said that it would even change the Constitution for this. SP had announced that 15 per cent reservation will be given to Muslims in police and PAC also. These people are bent on snatching the rights of SCs, STs and OBCs to please their vote bank," Modi said in Mirzapur.

"The SP and Congress have stooped so low for furthering their vote bank politics that they want turn country's bahusankhyak samaj (majority society) into doyam darje ka nagarik (second-class citizens). They want to change the Constitution to ensure that their religion-based reservation system won't ever be challenged in the court," the Prime Minister alleged.

He said the SP-Congress dynasties have turned Purvanchal into a region fraught with the terror of mafia and poverty and a sense of helplessness among the people. "But for the last 10 years, Purvanchal has been electing the Prime Minister and for the last seven years, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. Hence, Purvanchal is most special," he said.

'Purvanchal special'

Modi said the SP-Congress dynasties have turned Purvanchal into a region fraught with mafia terror and poverty and a sense of helplessness. "But for the last 10 years, Purvanchal has been electing the PM and for the last seven years, the CM of UP. So Purvanchal is most special," he said.

DECODE LS POLLS '24 DECIDE

PM openly says he will topple HP govt: Rahul

Modi waived loans worth ₹16 lakh crore of 22 people in the last 10 years but could not give ₹9,000 crore to Himachal Pradesh to deal with the disaster caused by monsoon rains

Rahul Gandhi, Congress leader

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi waived loans worth ₹16 lakh crore of 22 rich people in the last 10 years but could not give ₹9,000 crore to Himachal Pradesh to deal with the disaster caused by monsoon rains last year, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Saturday.

Rather than helping the hill state, Modi attempted to "steal" its elected government, Gandhi said, claiming that the Prime Minister "openly announced" at his rallies that he would topple the Congress regime in Himachal Pradesh.

The Congress leader was referring to Modi's speeches in Nahan and Mandi on Friday, in which the PM claimed that the Congress government in Himachal Pradesh would not last long. "The prime minister is saying he will bring down the Himachal Pradesh government by stealing, giving money and through corruption," Gandhi said, alleging that "stolen" governments were formed in Goa, Arunachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

Seeking support for the Congress' Hamirpur candidate Satpal Raizada in Una, Rahul accused Modi of increasing unemployment by helping people like Adani, finishing small and medium businesses, through demonetisation and GST implementation.

Earlier addressing a rally at Nahan in Sirmaur district, Rahul said, "Modi waived loans worth ₹16 lakh crore of 22 people in the last 10 years but could not give ₹9,000 crore to Himachal Pradesh to deal with the disaster caused by monsoon rains."

He said Modi handed over all storage facilities to one person to control the apple prices. "In Himachal, apple-growers fail to get the right price because of the partnership existing between Modi and Adani. All storage facilities have been given to one person who controls the apple price," he said.

He said, "Modi and BJP leaders are attacking the Constitution. Their party leaders have said they will scrap the Constitution. Our Constitution is the nation's voice but BJP says they want only Narendra Modi's voice to prevail."

Monopoly on apples

Rahul Gandhi said Modi handed over all storage facilities to one person to control apple prices. "In Himachal, apple-growers fail to get the right price due to the partnership between Modi and Adani," he said.

POWER GAMES

SHAHID FARIDI
The writer is Resident Editor TNIE, New Delhi.
Follow him on X@Shahid_Faridi_

Son-Rise in Bihar

NITISH MAY BRING SON NISHANT INTO POLITICS

Bihar chief minister and Janata Dal (United) chief Nitish Kumar is likely to give a political assignment to his son Nishant Kumar. There are reports about Nitish's health deteriorating. This has fuelled speculations about the future of the JD(U). A section in Bihar feels that the JD(U) would soon disintegrate and disappear, with its remnants merging into other parties. But Nitish seems to have worked out plans to keep the party intact and in power. Sources say he has already put in place a reorganisation plan for the party. As per this plan, Nitish would hand over the reins of the party to his trusted lieutenant Shrawan Kumar, who is currently the rural development minister in Bihar. Shrawan is one the closest aides of Nitish. He is involved in key political decisions and he was stationed in Uttar Pradesh when Nitish was part of INDIA bloc and was reportedly preparing to contest against Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Varanasi Lok Sabha constituency. Shrawan's elevation as party president will be accompanied with a soft political launch of the 49-year-old Nishant. Nishant, an engineering graduate like his father, lives with Nitish but has kept away from politics. He has, however, lately been seen accompanying his father on various trips. The father-son duo recently visited their home district, Nalanda, where they prayed at a temple together and attended social and political functions. Nishant's entry into politics would see Nitish, who has been vociferously against bringing family into politics, doing one more flip. His frequent flips have earned him a moniker Paltu Ram. He had recently attacked Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Yadav for promoting his family. "Apne hatey to bibi ko mukhyamantri bana diye. Inhone 9 beta beti paida kiya, kitna beta beti ko bana diya. Hum log parivarvaad ko badhawa nahi dete; sab ko apna parivar mante hain," he said.

Course Correction

BJP JUNKED 400 PAR SLOGAN TO ACTIVATE CADRES

The BJP started its 2024 Lok Sabha campaign with the slogan 'Ab Ki Bar, 400 Par'. The party's top leaders claimed that the BJP will win 370 seats on its own and the NDA will cross 400. They said the nation will honour Prime Minister Narendra Modi's revocation of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir by giving the BJP 370 seats in the Lok Sabha. However, after the polling for the first two phases, the party leadership felt that the slogan had made its workers complacent as they took victory in the election as a foregone conclusion. There were also constituencies where party workers and local leaders were not happy with the candidates and did not go out to campaign with full force. Sensing that the absence of zeal among workers could potentially hurt its prospects, the party reportedly went for a course correction mid-way through the election by steering away from the claim of winning 400 seats and focusing on mobilising workers and injecting josh into them. The party leadership appears satisfied with the workers' participation in the subsequent phases.

High-speed train now for Indian Hajis travelling from Jeddah to Mecca

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

INDIAN Haj pilgrims can now travel from Jeddah airport to Mecca in a high-speed train, cutting the travel time by half, and for the same fare they had been paying for the bus journeys in the route.

"The Consulate General of India in Jeddah, in association with Saudi Arabian authorities, facilitated Haj pilgrims to ride the high-speed Harmain train from Jeddah airport to Mecca. Nearly 32,000 pilgrims are expected to take the service this year," Suhel Ajaz Khan, Indian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, told this newspaper.

The fare for the train from Jeddah airport to Mecca, which clocks the route at a speed of 300 km/hr, is 125 Saudi Riyal, or about ₹2,800. This is same as the bus fare in the route.

Around 1.4 lakh Indians have taken the Haj Committee route, while 35,000 have gone for the annual pilgrimage through private tour operators.

"This is not only a first for Indian pilgrims but also an inaugural experience for Saudi authorities in transporting Hajis by train directly from Jeddah airport to Mecca. This speaks volumes of the strong India-Saudi Arabian relations," Khan added.

Indian Army Chief's tenure extended by one month

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

IN a rare step, the Chief of Indian Army, General Manoj Pande, has been given a month-long extension in service.

"The Appointments Committee of Cabinet approved the extension in service of Chief of the Army Staff for a period of one month, beyond his normal age of superannuation (May 31, 2024), That is, up to June 30, 2024, under 16 A (4) of the Army Rules 1954," said the Ministry of Defence on Sunday.

General Pande was appointed the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) on April 30, 2022. He was commissioned in December 1982 in the Corps of Engineers (Bombay Sappers). He held the appointment of Vice Chief of Army Staff before taking over as the COAS.

His successor is yet to be announced which, in a normal practice, is named a few weeks ahead of the appointment of the next Chief of Service.

There is only one such incident in the history of Indian Army, when in 1975, the then Army Chief General GG Bewoor was given one-year extension by then PM Indira Gandhi-led government. Due to the extension, the next in line as per seniority, Lieutenant General Prem Bhagat retired from service.

General Bewoor served as the chief from January 16, 1973 to May 31, 1975 and was succeeded by General TN Raina. The armed forces have mostly followed the seniority principle: the seniormost Lieutenant General is made the COAS from the list of the three lieutenant generals forwarded to the government by the service. It is the prerogative of the government to select and appoint the Army chief and other heads.

Both Lieutenant Generals Dwivedi and AK Singh are coursemates.

Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi, the current Vice Chief of Army Staff, is said to be the next in line for the Army Chief post as he is senior as per the Indian Commission number. He was commissioned into 18 Jammu and Kashmir Rifles in December 1984 along with Lieutenant General Singh.

Only one precedent in history of services

There is only one such incident in the history of Indian Army, when in 1975, the then Army Chief General GG Bewoor was given one-year extension by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi-led government. Due to the extension, the next in line as per seniority, Lieutenant General Prem Bhagat retired from service.

C'garh gets a rare sighting of GPS-tagged long-distance migratory bird 'whimbrel'

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

FIRST the time, a long-distance migratory bird, the Eurasian or common whimbrel, tagged with a Global Positioning System (GPS) transmitter was captured on camera in the state of Chhattisgarh. The bird, after a three-day stay in the state, has now travelled to Odisha.

Ornithologists and state forest officials observed that the migratory bird was flying mammoth distances and stopped over in Chhattisgarh, owing to the presence of wetlands in the Berla area of Bemetara district, about 70 km from Raipur.

The whimbrel was photographed by bird watchers Himanshu Gupta, Jageshwar Verma and Avinash Bhoi in Berla.

Many organisations and countries use geo-tagging and colour tags to study bird migration patterns and behaviour, the ornithologists who closely keep track of the winged visitors told this newspaper.

Ornithologists were jubilant to watch the migratory bird, whose scientific name is Numenius phaeopus, and is also known as the white-rumped whimbrel in North America.

Named Marlene, bird was fitted with GPS in March

According to ornithologist Ravi Naidu of Bombay National History Society, the Eurasian whimbrel was named 'Merlene' by Professor Mathieu Lecorre of the University de La Reunion. The bird was recaptured and fitted with a GPS tag on March 7 this year, he said.

"An incredible sighting in Chhattisgarh and the first time in the country when a whimbrel, fitted with a GPS transmitter in the far-flung La Reunion Island, was seen. It was tagged by Professor Mathieu Lecorre of the University de La Reunion," said Avinash Bhoi, an ornithologist.

"The long-distance migratory birds arrived in Chhattisgarh through Central India via Pakistan flyway. Chhattisgarh has wetlands playing a significant role to serve as the stopover to these birds, which come down to feed themselves and take rest. It is the first time in India such a GPS-tagged bird is being spotted and photographed. There is greater need to restore such aquatic biodiversity habitat and wetlands facing loss of vegetation and encroachment," said ornithologist Ravi Naidu from Bombay National History Society.

N-E INSURGENTS

Hawala channels used to buy arms, says NIA

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE National Investigation Agency, probing a case linked to weapon-smuggling in the northeast region of the country, has found that hawala channels are being used to pay Myanmar-based arms and ammunition suppliers, who bring them illegally to Manipur and Mizoram.

According to sources, an NIA team found the payment channels after it conducted raids at six locations, including a gun shop in Mizoram capital Aizawl, on Saturday. Following the raids, the NIA sleuths have arrested one Solomons alias Hminga for his alleged involvement in the arms smuggling.

NIA officials said they have seized a huge quantity of explosives, ammunition, digital devices, documents and other incriminating materials. "The accused have established a network in the bordering areas of Myanmar and Mizoram to procure and transfer arms and ammunition," they said.

Three rat-hole coal miners trapped after landslide in Assam, rescue ops on

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

THREE coal miners were trapped and are feared dead after a landslide hit an illegal rat-hole mine in Assam's Tinsukia district bordering Arunachal Pradesh.

The incident occurred past Saturday midnight at a mining site between Bargolai and Namdang in the Patkai hills.

"We received a report that three persons are missing. We are taking necessary action," Tinsukia district magistrate Swapneel Paul told this newspaper.

The authorities pressed into service some agencies, including the police, to carry out a rescue operations. The operations were underway when reports last came in.

According to the reports, two of the missing persons are from Meghalaya, while one is identified as Dawa Sherpa from Nepal.

Altogether, four miners were at the site when the mishap occurred. While three were extracting coal from a narrow tunnel via rat-hole mining method, another was transporting the extracted coal. The three in the tunnel got trapped in the landslide.

A local told media that the incident had occurred right after Saturday midnight. He confirmed that three persons were trapped.

The Ledo-Margherita region of Tinsukia, bordering Arunachal's Changlang district, is a coal belt. Illegal coal mining is said to have caused irreversible damages to wildlife in the area.

In January this year, six workers were charred to death and four others were injured at a coal mine in Nagaland's Wokha district.

The National Green Tribunal had banned rat-hole mining in 2014. However, coal is still extracted by this dangerous method in the Northeast.

SC hearing in BJP plea on poll adverts today

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday the BJP's petition challenging a Calcutta High Court order, which directed it not to publish derogatory advertisements targeting the ruling Trinamool Congress in West Bengal. The High Court order had said that such advertisements are in violation of the model code of conduct during the Lok Sabha elections.

A two-judge vacation bench, comprising Justices JK Maheshwari and KV Viswanathan, is scheduled to hear the BJP's plea on Monday.

The BJP had moved the Supreme Court on Friday. Senior advocate Saurabh Mishra, mentioning the matter before another vacation bench on Friday, had sought an urgent hearing.

The Calcutta High Court had, on May 20, restrained the BJP from publishing advertisements targeting the TMC. It also pulled up the Election Commission for "grossly failing" to address TMC's complaints.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

DECODE LS POLLS '24 DECIDE

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	44	30	Mumbai	35	29
Bhopal	43	31	Panaji	31	30
Jaipur	45	32	Patna	38	27
Amritsar	45	29	Lucknow	41	30
Chennai	38	34	Port Blair	31	27
Kolkata	38	29	Imphal	35	21
Srinagar	30	11	Chandigarh	40	24

BORDER TRADE WINDS

In Amritsar & Gurdaspur, major parties in favour of reopening Attari-Wagah land route to give a fillip to local economy

AMRITSAR LOK SABHA CONSTITUENCY

TOTAL VOTERS 19,92,399

MALE 10,45,462 | FEMALE 9,46,863 | THIRD GENDER 74

ASSEMBLY SEGMENTS

- Ajnala
- Raja Sansai
- Majitha
- Jandiala
- Amritsar (North)
- Amritsar (West)
- Amritsar (East)
- Amritsar (Central)
- Amritsar (South)
- Attari
- Baba Bakala

MAIN CANDIDATES

- **Gurjeet Singh Aujla** (CONG)
- **Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal** (AAP)
- **Taranjit Singh Sandhu** (BJP)
- **Anil Josh** (Shiromani Akali Dal)

In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Gurjeet Singh Aujla of Congress won the seat with a margin of 99,626 votes. Aujla was polled 4,45,032 votes with a vote share of 52% and defeated Hardeep Singh Puri of BJP who got 3,45,406 votes (40.14%)

IN THE 2019 LOK SABHA POLLS SUNNY DEOL OF BJP WON. HE POLLED 5,58,719 VOTES WITH A VOTE SHARE OF 51% AND DEFEATED SUNIL JAKHAR OF CONGRESS WHO GOT 4,76,260 VOTES (43.12%)

GURDASPUR LOK SABHA CONSTITUENCY

TOTAL VOTERS 15,91,923

MALE 8,42,773 | FEMALE 7,49,113 | THIRD GENDER 37

ASSEMBLY SEGMENTS

- Sujanpur
- Bhoa
- Pathankot
- Gurdaspur
- Dinanagar
- Qadian
- Batala
- Fategarh Churian
- Dera Baba Nanak

MAIN CANDIDATES

- **Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa** (CONG)
- **Amansher Singh** (AAP)
- **Dinesh Singh Babbu** (BJP)
- **Dr Daljeet Singh Cheema** (Shiromani Akali Dal)

HARPREET BAJWA
@Amritsar/Gurdaspur

RESUMPTION of trade with Pakistan through the Attari-Wagah land route has emerged as a key issue for traders and industry in Amritsar, the high-profile parliamentary constituency on the Indo-Pak-border. They say that the cross-border trade will also benefit farmers, transporters and labourers. That's also a major poll plank in Gurdaspur.

The volume of trade between India and Pakistan through the Attari land route was around Rs 5,000 crore per annum before the bilateral trade ties were suspended in 2019 following the Pulwama attack.

"The government must resume trade with Pakistan because in Amritsar there is no manufacturing industry. Pakistan was one of the largest markets for our farmers. If there was any shortage of any vegetable, it used to be imported also. Consumers as well as farmers both were happy," says former chairman of CII Amritsar Zone council Rajdeep Uppal Educationist and social worker Rajinder Mohan Singh Chhina, who is an advocate of closer Indo-Pak ties for economic growth of Amritsar says, "The city has the infrastructure to cater to more than the 40 million tourists."

Farmers' leader Ajmer Singh Heir says the Indo-Pak trade always benefited residents and farmers not only economically but also as a confidence-building measure for peace in the region. He says vegetables from Amritsar can reach Lahore in a few hours if the trade is allowed.

The BJP candidate in Amritsar Taranjit Singh Sandhu, India's former Ambassador to the US and a seasoned diplomat, is banking on the Modi influence and the crucial urban voters. He says that Amritsar is an international city and needs to be brought to the world map for tourism, IT industry and foreign trade that will generate employment.

He is facing tough competition from Congress' Gurjit Singh Aujla, the sitting MP in Lok Sabha who won the seat twice with heavy margins. Aujla is facing tough questioning from voters for not doing much for development of the holy city. He also has to cope with factionalism within Congress' local leadership.

"I have been demanding reopening of the Attari border. I want to set up a horticulture university," he says.

The ruling Aam Aadmi Party has fielded its cabinet Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal who is facing strong anti-incumbency against his government. He is counting on the popular schemes of AAP such as free power and health services.

The Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal), contesting for the first time independently after the break-up of the SAD-BJP alliance due to the farmers' protest, has fielded former BJP cabinet minister Anil Joshi. He is a popular urban face and is relying on the party's strong cadre in the rural areas.

In Gurdaspur, the BJP has fielded Dinesh Kumar Babbu, former three-time MLA and a popular party leader in his home constituency, though a little known face in rural areas. He is facing Congress' former deputy CM Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, SAD (B)'s Daljit Singh Cheema and AAP's sitting MLA Sherry Kalsi. The BJP also is facing tough times in rural areas as Sandhu and Babbu face farmer's protests wherever they go out far campaigning.

The BJP's Cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu won from Amritsar twice in 2004, 2009 but later the BJP has lost successive three elections in Amritsar. Even after fielding heavy weights including late Arun Jaitley and present Union Minister Hardip Singh Puri in the past, the party has failed to make a mark with the voters.

Similarly former Bollywood heartthrob Vindo Khanna has successfully won from Gurdaspur in 1998, 2004 and 2009 and Sunny Deol won in 2017. It seems a do and die battle for the BJP in both constituencies but in the absence of the alliance with Akalis, the party's poor organizational structure in rural areas, farmers' protest and Sandhu's outsider tag is making it tough for the party in the holy city of Amritsar.

MUJRA REMARK

Kharge says PM insulted Bihar, Tejashwi writes an open letter

RAMASHANKAR/ RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ Patna/New Delhi

CONGRESS president Mallikarjun Kharge and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Sunday launched a broadside against Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his 'mujra' jibe, alleging that the remark has insulted people of Bihar.

Addressing an election rally in Sasaram, Kharge said the PM used the word 'mujra' while referring to the opposition leaders in an election rally in the state on Saturday. "Modi Ji has insulted Bihar by using this word. It means mujra is performed here. This is an insult to Bihar and its electorate," he said.

In an open letter, Tejashwi said the remark exposes the PM's mentality against backward classes and Dalits. While addressing an election rally in Bihar on Saturday, Modi had accused the INDIA bloc of doing "slavery and mujra" for vote bank politics.

The Congress president said Modi considered himself as "tees maar khan" but he was under a wrong impression as people were the real 'tees maar khan'. He accused Modi of being a dictator and people would not be allowed to express their views if he became PM.

Congress president said he respected Modi as Prime Minister but the latter didn't respect Congress leaders. "Modi hugs only rich people and not the poor," he said.

Tejashwi said Modi by using such a word is undermining the dignity of the post. "Should the PM of a country like India should use the language of Modi," he said in the open letter. Tejashwi said Bihar conducted a caste survey.

"In the light of the findings, we increased reservation to 75% and kept requesting you (PM) to include it in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution. But you have an anti-backward and anti-Dalit mentality. You did not give any consideration to this request," he wrote. Tejashwi alleged that PM has found a unique way to end reservation.

"Reservation is available for government jobs under the Constitution. If you abolish government jobs from railways, army, then concept of reservation will be redundant. We have been requesting you to make an arrangement for reservation in private sectors," he said.

Attaching a list of Muslim castes placed under OBC category in Gujarat, Tejashwi said, "Castes of Muslim community also get quota in Gujarat."

No consideration to quota request: Tejashwi

Tejashwi said Bihar conducted a caste survey. "In the light of the findings, we increased reservation to 75% and kept requesting you (PM) to include it in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution. You did not give any consideration to this request," he wrote. Tejashwi alleged that PM has found a unique way to end reservation.

Survival of farmers at stake, says Priyanka

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

TWO days after the polling for the four phase Lok Sabha polls in Madhya Pradesh ended, opposition Congress's state president Jitu Patwari made a candid admission on Wednesday – "not just the BJP, but our own weaknesses are to be blamed for party's successive poll defeats in the state."

"We've lost three-four consecutive elections in the state, including the 2023 assembly elections. This means that we can't always keep on blaming the BJP for our poll losses. Our weaknesses are also responsible and correcting it now is of utmost priority. We're already working on strengthening the state party organization and the results will soon be seen on the ground," Patwari said on Wednesday.

Reacting to Patwari's candid admission, the state BJP spokesperson Shivam Shukla said, "It seems that even before the LS polls results are out, the state Congress chief has conceded defeat and started speaking the truth about his party's own problems. His press conference on Wednesday seemed to be his farewell meet."

At an all women rally in Patiala 'Nari Nyay Sammelan' to seek votes for Congress candidate Dr Dharamvira Gandhi, Priyanka asked the women of the state to be united, understand their power, stand up to "falsehood" and make sure polls are fought on real issues.

BALLOT POWER

J&K's record voting of over 58% signals people's trust in system

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

IN the first major electoral exercise after Article 370 abrogation and bifurcation of erstwhile J&K state into two Union Territories, Jammu and Kashmir has recorded the combined poll percentage of 58.11% for the five parliamentary seats in the Union Territory, which is the record highest voter turnout in last 35 years.

"The voter turnout in the polls this year shows the confidence of people in the system. They have come out from the shadows of poll boycott and reposed trust in democratic setup. They have voted fearlessly," said a political analyst.

The voting turnout in Udhampur, where Union MoS PMO Dr Jitendra Singh is pitted against Congress's Lal Singh in direct fight, was 68.27%; the poll percentage in Jammu seat where from sitting BJP MP Jugal Kishore is seeking third term was 72.2%, in Srinagar LS seat where from NC's Aga Ruhullah is pitted against PDP's Waheed Para was 39.09%, the poll percentage in Baramulla LS seat, where NC's Omar Abdullah, jailed ex MLA Er Rashid and Peoples Conference chairman Sajad Lone are involved in triangular contest, was 59.10% while the high stake Anantnag-Rajouri LS seat where from PDP's Mehbooba Mufti, NC's Mian Altaf and Apni Party's Zafar Manhas are involved in triangular contest, recorded 53% voting.

According to J&K Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), P K Pole, the combined poll percentage in five parliamentary seats in J&K is 58.11 percent, which is the highest voter turnout in the last 35 years.

He said the turnout was the highest since the outbreak of militancy in the region in 1990. According to statistics released by CEO, as against 58% voting reported in five LS seats in J&K this year, 44.07% polling was reported in 2019, 49.58% in 2014, 39.04% in 2009, 34.07% in 2004, 30.89% in 1999, 43.35% in 1998, 47.99% in 1996 and 29.93% voter turnout in 1989.

The Lok Sabha polls was the first major electoral exercise in J&K since abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of erstwhile J&K state into two UTs.

The polling in five parliamentary seats in Jammu and Kashmir has ended. The polling for Udhampur Lok Sabha seat was held in first phase, Jammu seat in second phase, Srinagar in fourth, Baramulla in 5th phase and Anantnag-Rajouri in sixth phase on May 25.

Turnout in Jammu LS seat was 72%

The turnout out in Udhampur, where Union MoS PMO Dr Jitendra Singh is pitted against Congress's Lal Singh in direct fight, was 68.27%; the poll percentage in Jammu seat from where sitting BJP MP Jugal Kishore is seeking third term was 72.2%, in Srinagar where from NC's Aga Ruhullah is pitted against PDP's Waheed Para was 39.09%

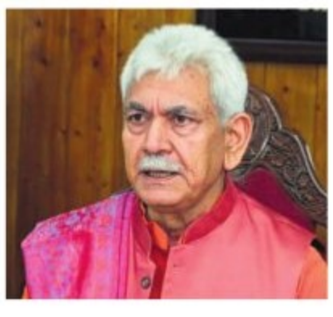
Sinha returns to Ghazipur to boost last-mile support to BJP candidates

ANURAAG SINGH @ Varanasi

IN February 2022. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor **Manoj Sinha** embarked on a temple run in his native Ghazipur district of eastern Uttar Pradesh, amid the assembly polls in the BJP-ruled state.

The opposition parties had then alleged that Sinha's visit to his native place was actually a "pseudo campaign" for the BJP candidates on various seats of Ghazipur district. The saffron party, however, lost all the seven assembly seats of the district in the 2022 elections. Those seats included Ghazipur Sadar, Mohammadabad and Zamania, where the BJP candidates were considered close to Sinha.

More than two years after that 2022 temple run visit which coincided with the state elections, Sinha is again on a similar visit to his native place.



This time, the visit coinciding with the Lok Sabha polls, assumes particular significance, as the BJP candidate from Ghazipur LS seat is Paras Nath Rai (an old RSS worker and educationist), who has played a key role in managing Sinha's previous Lok Sabha battles from the same seat.

The current visit is not solely dedicated to offering prayers at temples, but prominently includes visits to families of his close contacts. He was in Ghazipur first between May 22 and 24 and is likely to return to his home district again by Sunday evening for fresh tour with his contacts across the district, whose seven assembly segments form part of Ghazipur and Ballia.

According to political watchers in Ghazipur, while Sinha's trusted aide Rai is fighting hard to make the battle close against SP candidate and MP Afzal Ansari, the BJP candidate in adjoining Ballia Neeraj Shekhar (two times ex- SP MP and younger son of ex-PM Late Chandra Shekhar) is fighting a neck-to-neck with the SP candidate Sanatan Pandey.

Jaishankar interacts with Varanasi's Tamils

ANURAAG SINGH @ Varanasi

AS the Lok Sabha polls approach its seventh and final phase, top ministers of the Narendra Modi government are now bound to Varanasi – the PM's parliamentary constituency.

External Affairs minister S Jaishankar attended a series of programs in Varanasi on Sunday, starting with an interactive talk on 'Empowerment with Education: Teaching for a Better Tomorrow' at a prominent school in the city and later meeting the Tamil Diaspora of Varanasi.

Addressing the crowded hall, Jaishankar said, "The reality is that the world is going through a very tough phase. There is war in Ukraine, fighting i Gaza, problems on the South China Sea and even on our own border with China, besides terrorism in different parts of the world. Countries are facing big financial problems, trade and debt related problems, the effect of COVID is still there."

"In the immediate future of 3-5 years, I see a lot of disturbances, we need a very strong government under an equally strong and visionary leader. Fortunately, we've a very strong leader already leading us. I like many things about Modiji (PM Modi), but what I like most is the amount of time he spends with students to reduce their exam related stress," Jaishankar said while responding to queries of the wide section of the audience.

Later in the day, he travelled to the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham/ Sri Kanchi Shankar Matham at the Hanuman Ghat (one of the 80-odd ghats dotting the majestic Ganga riverfront in Varanasi) where he interacted with the Tamil Diaspora of Varanasi, which has made the ancient city their home since centuries.

While underlining the importance of the Tamil Sangam (a non profit-group established in Kashi in 1946), the minister assured the gathering of further strengthening the Sangam to ensure that younger generations of the Tamil Diaspora as well as the Pancha Dravida (Marathi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam speaking people) in Varanasi get more deep rooted to their rich cultural heritage. Those present at the interactive meeting (included representatives of the entire Pancha Dravida society) informed the minister about the old connection that they had for decades with the RSS and the BJP.

11 dead
After powerful storms struck Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • WI: Windy • HR: Heavy Rain • SN: Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	22	16	SNY	Los Angeles	20	14	SNY
Colombo	30	27	LR	Melbourne	14	8	LC
Dhaka	37	28	SNY	Moscow	21	9	SNY
Dubai	37	28	SNY	New York	30	17	LC
Houston	32	26	SNY	Singapore	31	28	SNY
Istanbul	23	16	SNY	Toronto	24	13	SNY
London	19	10	SNY	Washington	17	10	LC

HAMAS UPS THE ANTE BY FIRING EIGHT ROCKETS INTO ISRAEL

No immediate reports of casualties or damage. IDF says a number of projectiles were intercepted, which came from Rafah

DEIR AL-BALAH

HAMAS fired a barrage of rockets from Gaza that set off air raid sirens as far away as Tel Aviv for the first time in months on Sunday in a show of resilience more than seven months into Israel's massive air, sea and ground offensive.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage in what appeared to be the first long-range rocket attack from Gaza since January. Hamas' military wing claimed the attack. Palestinian militants have sporadically fired rockets and mortar rounds at communities along the Gaza border, and the military arm of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group later Sunday said it fired rockets at nearby communities.

The Israeli military said eight projectiles crossed into Israel after being launched from the area of the southern Gaza city of Rafah, where Israeli forces recently launched an incursion. It said "a number" of the projectiles were intercepted. Earlier Sunday, aid trucks entered Gaza from southern Israel under a new agreement to bypass the Rafah crossing with Egypt after Israeli forces seized the Palestinian side of it earlier this month.

But it was not immediately clear if humanitarian groups could access the aid because of fighting. Egypt refuses to reopen its side of the Rafah crossing until control of the Gaza side is handed back to Palestinians. It agreed to temporarily divert traffic through Israel's Kerem Shalom crossing, Gaza's main cargo terminal, after a call between US President Joe Biden and Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi.

But the Kerem Shalom crossing has been largely inaccessible because of Israel's offensive in Rafah. Israel says it has allowed hundreds of trucks to enter, but United Nations agencies say it is usually too dangerous to retrieve the aid.

Egypt's state-run *Al-Qahera TV* aired footage of what it said were trucks entering Gaza through Kerem Shalom. Khaled Zayed, head of the Egyptian Red Crescent in the Sinai Peninsula, which handles the delivery of aid from the Egyptian side of the Rafah crossing, said 200 aid trucks and four fuel trucks were scheduled to be sent to Kerem Shalom on Sunday. Southern Gaza has been largely cut off from aid since Israel launched what it called a limited incursion into Rafah on May 6. Since then, over 1 million Palestinians have fled the city. Most had been displaced from other parts of besieged Gaza.

A few dozen trucks enter Gaza daily through a US-built floating pier, but its capacity remains far below. *AP*

Mourners attend the funeral of Michel Nisenbaum, who was killed during Hamas attack on Oct 7 and whose body was taken into Gaza. The Israeli military recovered Nisenbaum's remains, along with those of two other Israelis killed during the attack, in an operation in Gaza last week | AP

WAR WATCH
ISRAEL-GAZA: DAY 233

TOLL SO FAR
37,641

Protesters, police in scuffle in Tel Aviv

Scuffles between Israeli police and protesters erupted in Tel Aviv on Saturday after thousands gathered to demonstrate against the government and demand that it bring back the hostages being held by Hamas in Gaza. Some protesters in Tel Aviv carried photos of the female soldiers who appeared in a video earlier in the week showing them abducted on Oct. 7. *AP*

Israel must abide by UN court ruling: EU foreign chief

BRUSSELS

THE European Union's foreign policy chief insisted on Sunday that Israel must abide by the UN top court's rulings and end its offensive in the southern Gaza city of Rafah and, at the same time, questioned the possible involvement of authorities in the settler violence against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

On a day that visiting Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa basked in the attention after two EU nations and Norway pledged to recognise a Palestinian state, Josep Borrell further pressured Israel to take immediate actions to make sure that tax income meant for the Palestinian authorities is no longer stopped.

The demands came at the end of the week that saw the international community put increasing pressure on Israel to fundamentally change the course of the war it wages on Hamas in the Gaza Strip through international court action and diplomatic maneuvering. Borrell insisted Israel had driven the Palestinians to the edge of a catastrophe because "the situation in Gaza is beyond words. The occupied West Bank is on the brink, risking an explosion any time."

While most of the global attention is centered on Gaza, Borrell said that "we should not forget what's happening in the West Bank," where the seat of the Palestinian Authority is based.

"There we see an intensified spiral of violence. Indiscriminate and punishing attacks by extremist settlers, more and more targeting humanitarian aid heading to Gaza. And they are heavily armed. And the question is, who is arming them? And who is not preventing this attack from happening," Borrell said. *AP*

12 hurt after Qatar Airways plane hits turbulence

LONDON

TWELVE people were injured when a Qatar Airways plane flying from Doha to Dublin on Sunday hit turbulence, airport authorities said. Eight of the injured were hospitalised.

Dublin Airport said in a statement that flight QR017, a Boeing 787 Dreamliner, landed safely as scheduled. It said that upon landing the aircraft was met by emergency services, including airport police and the fire and rescue department, "due to six passengers and six crew ... reporting injuries after the aircraft experienced turbulence while airborne over Turkey."

The airport said all passengers were assessed for injuries aboard the plane, and eight were then taken to hospital. Qatar Airways said in a statement that "a small number of passengers and crew sustained minor injuries in flight and are now receiving medical attention."

It said "the matter is now subject to an internal investigation." The incident comes five days after a British man died of a suspected heart attack and dozens of people were injured when a Singapore Airlines flight from London hit severe turbulence. Aviation analysts point to the potential impacts that climate change may have on flying conditions. *AP*

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Sl. No.	Online Tender no. / Rate Contract (RC) No./ item with qty./ Document Cost	Sale Period	Pre bid	Last date Submission	Opening
1	RC Tender No.E1170/VDRL/TANSACS/TNMSC/ENGG/ 2024, dt:20.05.2024- VDRL Rotator (276) – Rs.5,725/-	28.05.2024 to 12.06.2024	04.06.2024 11.00 AM	13.06.2024 11.00 AM	13.06.2024 12.00 Noon
2	RC Tender No.E1171/DEXA/DME/TNMSC/ENGG/2024, dt:20.05.2024- Dexa Scan (5) – Rs.5,725/-	28.05.2024 to 12.06.2024	04.06.2024 11.30 AM	13.06.2024 11.00 AM	13.06.2024 12.00 Noon
3	RC Tender No.E1172/EMG/TNHSRP/TNMSC/ENGG/2024, dt:20.05.2024- EMG & NCV Study (6) – Rs.5,725/-	29.05.2024 to 13.06.2024	05.06.2024 11.00 AM	14.06.2024 11.00 AM	14.06.2024 12.00 Noon
4	RC Tender No.E1173/LAMP/NHM/TNMSC/ENGG/2024, dt:20.05.2024- LED Examination Lamp (26 Sets) – Rs.2,290/-	29.05.2024 to 13.06.2024	05.06.2024 11.30 AM	14.06.2024 11.00 AM	14.06.2024 12.00 Noon
5	RC Tender No.E1174/VEN/RC/TNMSC/ENGG/2024, dt:20.05.2024- Neonatal Ventilator (105) – Rs.5,725/-	29.05.2024 to 13.06.2024	05.06.2024 12.00 Noon	14.06.2024 11.00 AM	14.06.2024 12.00 Noon

For details visit **www.tenders.tn.gov.in** and TNMSC website **www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in**
DIPR/ 1740 /Tender/2024
General Manager (Equipment)

FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD. AUCTION NOTICE

This is to inform the public at large, that FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD., has decided to conduct Auction of Gold ornaments belonging to accounts (mentioned below) which have become overdue or which have defaults or margin breach of customers. The Auction would be held at respective Branches specified below on **Friday 07-06-2024 between 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.** This would continue till the auction process is over.

Anekal 080-27830505 **FEDGL0088**0005801, 0004535, 0004536, 0004564, 0004574, 0005133 **Arakalgud** 08175-220780 **FEDGL0036**0011556, 0011557, 0011576, 0011589, 0011606 **Arasikere** 08174-299941 **FEDGL0414**0003061, 0003062, 0003083, 0003679 **B H Road** 8162277793 **FEDGL0103**0012228, 0012140, 0012151, 0012157, 0012235, 0012236, 0012273, 0012309, 0016225 **BASAVESHWARA NAGAR** 080 41900282 **FEDGL0011**0011222, 0011243, 0011248, 0011251, 0011290, 0011297, 0011298, 0011302, 0012083 **BELGAUM** 0831 4201487 **FEDGL0136**0005556, 0005571, 0005573, 0005579, 0005581, 0005585, 0005591, 0005592, 0005605, 0005610, 0005615, 0006558 **BELUR** 08177 222100 **FEDGL0159**0010092, 0010095, 0010097, 0010112, 0010135, 0010136, 0010141, 0010142, 0011661 **BOMMANAHALLI** 080 41500417 **FEDGL0014**0007203, 0007528, 0007780 **BTM LAYOUT** 080-41312231 **FEDGL0003**0006228, 0006237, 0006239, 0006249 **BYADGI** 8375229022 **FEDGL0051**0012556, 0010571, 0010586, 0010590, 0010610, 0010617, 0010635, 0012192, 0012633 **Caltex Circle** 8162277972 **FEDGL0102**0011061, 0011067, 0011082, 0011085, 0011093, 0011096, 0011099, 0011128, 0011129, 0011151, 0011154, 0012164, 0013247 **Car Street Bellary** 8392276005 **FEDGL0092**0004864, 0003864, 0003884, 0003888, 0003900, 0004205, 0004553, 0004844, 0004869, 0004901, 0004902, 0004904 **CHANNAPATNA** 080 27256046 **FEDGL0176**0020472, 0018979, 0019984, 0020109 **CHENRAYAPATNA** 08176 252477 **FEDGL0158**0021584, 0021596, 0021602, 0021607, 0021608, 0021648, 0021660, 0021669, 0021671, 0021676, 0021684, 0021693 **CHIKKAMAGALUR** 08262 228286 **FEDGL0021**0007451, 0007464, 0007471, 0007842 **DAVANGERE** 08192-252111 **FEDGL0229**0009259, 0009292, 0009844 **dharwad** 0836 -2970229 **FEDGL0233**0005622, 0005623, 0005632, 0005643, 0005653 **Gadag** 08372-200075 **FEDGL0420**0003364, 0003386, 0003413, 0003424 **Gangavathi** 8533234018 **FEDGL0094**0004874, 0004878, 0004884, 0004885 **Gubbi** 8131222850 **FEDGL0046**0016188, 0012599, 0012610, 0012615, 0012619, 0012673, 0012675, 0012683, 0012690, 0012691, 0012729, 0012735, 0012749, 0012751, 0012764, 0015407, 0017397 **Gundalpete** 08229-295128 **FEDGL0383**0003157, 0003177, 0003186, 0003209 **H D Kote** 08228-297033 **FEDGL0058**0008787, 0008792, 0008798, 0008833 **Hagaribommanhalli** 08397-239003 **FEDGL0100**0009300, 0009305, 0009319, 0009326, 0009331, 0009345, 0009354, 0009375, 0009384, 0009387, 0010178, 0010820 **HANSUR** 08222 250114 **FEDGL0162**0017837, 0016550, 0016581, 0016606, 0017506, 0017523, 0017872, 0017874, 0017716, 0018298, 0018357 **Harappanahalli** 8398281429 **FEDGL0104**0009073, 0009074, 0009078, 0009085, 0009089 **HARIHAR** 08192-242865 **FEDGL0022**0013897, 0013931, 0014350, 0014359, 0014370 **HASSAN MARKET** 08172 235324 **FEDGL0157**0015032, 0015086, 0012481, 0012520, 0012525, 0012535, 0012555, 0012558, 0013900, 0013922, 0016012 **HAVERI** 8375232810 **FEDGL0181**0010381, 0010388, 0010398, 0010402, 0010408, 0010420 **HENNUR** 080-41979377 **FEDGL0015**0005251, 0004590, 0004895 **Holenarsipura** 08175-273733 **FEDGL0059**0020453, 0020468, 0020476, 0020490, 0020491, 0020508, 0020528, 0020545, 0020567, 0020569, 0020572, 0020585, 0021720 **HOSA ROAD** 080-257444811 **FEDGL0002**0012321, 0012383, 0012412, 0013793, 0013794 **Hosadurga** 8199200023 **FEDGL0412**0003791, 0003856 **Hospet** 08394-226899 **FEDGL0099**0008546, 0007398, 0007399, 0007419, 0007421, 0007439, 0007448, 0007454, 0007469, 0007472, 0008046, 0008510, 0008994 **JEEVAN BHEEMA NAGAR** 080 41900283 **FEDGL0019**0003997, 0003373, 0003418 **K R NAGAR** 08223 262045 **FEDGL0161**0013180, 0011691, 0012266, 0013200, 0013214 **K R Pete** 08230-262886 **FEDGL0063**0007561, 0007565, 0007572, 0007573, 0007589, 0007591, 0007607 **K R PURAM** 080 25610669 **FEDGL0012**0012534, 0012607, 0013072 **FEDBD0012**0000081 **K R ROAD** 8192272223 **FEDGL0037**0005664, 0005675, 0005694, 0005990, 0005991, 0006300 **Kadur** 08267-200280 **FEDGL0487**0002669, 0002673, 0002679, 0002680, 0002688, 0002699, 0002704, 0003652 **KAMMANAHALLI** 080 40926572 **FEDGL0005**0004504, 0004528, 0004533, 0004537, 0004538 **Kampli** 08394-250822 **FEDGL0095**0007331, 0007347, 0007372, 0007375 **Kappogal Road Bellary** 08392-255005 **FEDGL0093**0004203, 0004204, 0004207, 0004209, 0004214, 0004215, 0004216, 0004217, 0004235, 0004236 **KOPIKAR ROAD** 8362362444 **FEDGL0155**0007657, 0007658, 0007662, 0007663, 0007966, 0008309, 0008729 **Koppal** 8539200090 **FEDGL0403**0002076, 0002087, 0002089, 0002092, 0002095, 0002102, 0002108, 0002112, 0002115, 0002130 **Kudligi** 08391-299920 **FEDGL0404**0006260, 0003741, 0003749, 0003751, 0003752, 0003760, 0003764, 0003765, 0003767, 0003777, 0003778, 0003779, 0003781, 0003782, 0003791, 0003803, 0003806, 0003810, 0003813, 0003823, 0004698, 0004986, 0007050 **KUnigal** 08162-220155 **FEDGL0121**0008261, 0008271, 0008297, 0008310, 0008365 **Laxmeshwara** 8487200005 **FEDGL0407**0001582, 0001609 **Madhugiri** 8137200547 **FEDGL0393**0005008, 0005027, 0005028, 0005029, 0005059, 0005063, 0005064, 0005065, 0005102, 0005158 **Malavalli** 08321-244588 **FEDGL0365**0004707, 0004736, 0004739, 0004746 **Malebennur** 08192-299566 **FEDGL0062**0012458, 0010926, 0010934, 0010941, 0010944, 0010962, 0010965, 0011000, 0011001, 0012454 **MANDIMOHALLA** 8214264270 **FEDGL0174**0010680, 0009244, 0010482 **MANDYA** 08232 239585 **FEDGL0163**0007993, 0007994, 0007995 **Mundargi** 08371-295011 **FEDGL0064**0009949, 0007949, 0007952, 0007955, 0007962, 0007979, 0007998, 0008006, 0008010, 0008020, 0008023, 0008047, 0009880 **Nagarbhavi** 8023356022 **FEDGL0031**0005551, 0006284 **FEDBD0031**0000025 **NANJANGODE** 08221 223326 **FEDGL0160**0014717, 0013340, 0013345, 0013369, 0013374, 0013377, 0013387, 0013388, 0013404, 0013409, 0013417, 0013418, 0015482 **Nelamangala** 08029911005 **FEDGL0392**0002261, 0002280, 0002285, 0002292, 0002307, 0003084 **Pavagada** 08136-295608 **FEDGL0377**0007129, 0007147, 0007148, 0007186, 0007195, 0007196, 0007219, 0007221, 0007223, 0007226, 0007228, 0007235, 0007237, 0007243, 0008271**Periapatna** 08223-297589 **FEDGL0044**0010093, 0008027, 0008048, 0008076, 0008802, 0009515 **RAJAJI NAGAR** 080 41902910 **FEDGL0004**0004505, 0004922 **Ramamurthy Nagar** 8041225616 **FEDGL0035**0002877 **RAMANAGARA** 080 27275627 **FEDGL0180**0022122, 0022143, 0022144, 0022154, 0022176, 0022177, 0022236, 0022240, 0022242, 0022257, 0024196 **FEDDS0180**0000214 **RAMASWAMY CIRCLE** 8214253754 **FEDGL0173**0007031, 0007540 **RANEBENNUR** 08373 - 297397 **FEDGL0232**0011890, 0010404, 0010421, 0010426, 0010430, 0010451, 0010460, 0010949, 0011377, 0011903, 0011859 **SHIMOGA** 081 23115765 **FEDGL0183**0010438, 0010457, 0010458, 0010463, 0010464 **Sindhanur** 08535-200110,8880890891 **FEDGL0461**0002236, 0002244, 0002250, 0002254, 0002260, 0002263, 0002268, 0002275, 0002278, 0002281 **FEDBD0461**0000040 **Sira** 08135-295620 **FEDGL0376**0006979, 0006987, 0007020, 0007040, 0007078, 0007088, 0009142 **SIRSI** 08384-223365 **FEDGL0193**0007167, 0007168, 0007169, 0007177, 0007179, 0007182, 0007186, 0007187, 0007188, 0007193, 0007196 **Srinivasa Nagar** 080-26693369 **FEDGL0089**0004464, 0004743 **SULTHANPLYA** 080 41636281 **FEDGL0013**0006466, 0006170, 0006971 **Tarikere** 08261-200233 **FEDGL0415**0003944, 0002668, 0002674, 0002687, 0002701, 0003934 **Tiptur** 8134252402 **FEDGL0047**0008606, 0008610, 0008617, 0008633 **Turuvekere** 8139295735 **FEDGL0386**0004495, 0004506, 0004525, 0004537, 0004540, 0004554, 0004559 **Yeshwantpur** 8041225684 **FEDGL0034**0006361, 0004889, 0005170

Change in Venue or Date, if any will be displayed on our Website www.fedfina.com. All bidders participating will be intimated subsequently with respect to acceptance or rejection of bids submitted by them. Customer who want to release their ornaments shall visit at the base branch wherein the ornaments were pledged by the customer or contact at the number mentioned above on/or before 06-06-2024 subject to the terms and condition applicable.

Auction will be conducted at respective branches, in case the auction does not get completed on the given date due to any reasons, the auction in respect thereto shall be conducted on subsequent working days at district level branch after displaying the details on our Website. No further communication shall be issued in this regard.

Dated : 27-05-2024
Place : Karnataka
For, sd/- Authorised Signatory
Fedbank Financial Services Ltd.,

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK
(A scheduled commercial bank)
Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 &12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangala Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

E-AUCTION NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT (SARFAESI ACT) 2002, READ WITH PROVISO RULE 8(6) & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.

The undersigned as authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the following property in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT. The Borrower in particular and public at large are informed that online auction (e-auction)of the mortgage property in the below mentioned account for realisation of dues of the Bank will be held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS "** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** on the date as prescribed as here under.

Sr. No.	Loan Account Number	Name of Original Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of 13-2 Notice	Date of Possession	Present Outstanding balance as on 24.05.2024	Date & Time of Inspection of the property	Reserve Price in INR	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in INR	Date and Time of E-Auction	Last date TIME & Place for submission of Bid
1	32509440000460	1) Mr. Shaik Nabi, Prop. M/s. Coconut Water and Fast Food Center, Also at: M/s. Coconut Water and Fast Food Center, 2) Mrs. Hajira Begaum	19.12.2023	16.04.2024	Rs.4,36,158.70 (Rupees Four Lakh Thirty Six Thousand One Hundred Fifty Eight and Seventy Paisa Only)	14.06.2024 Time: 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs.8,02,000/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Two Thousand Only)	Rs.80,200/- (Rupees Eighty Thousand Two Hundred Only)	28.06.2024 @ 02:00 PM	27.06.2024, Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071
	Details of Secured Assets: All the piece and parcel of property bearing Property No.246, Junjar No.347, Situated at Shikaripalya Village, Maragondanahalli Dhakale, Hulimangala Grama Panchayath, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District. **Measuring:** East to West: 27 ft, North to South: 22 ft, Total measuring 594 sq.ft and **Bounded on: East by:** Noor Jan's property, **West by:** Pyaru Sab's property, **North by:** Mumtaz's property, **South by:** 4ft Passages belong to Donor. Together 594 Sq.ft ACC Sheet roofing house thereon., Mud & Brick Wall, Red Oxide Flooring, Jungle Wood Doors and Windows having all civic amenities.									
2	47519630000065	1) Mrs. Shilpa S 2) Mr. Govindaraja M	13.04.2023	13.05.2024	Rs.4,48,613.70 (Rupees Four Lakh Forty Eighty Thousand Six Hundred Thirteen and Seventy Paisa Only)	14.06.2024 Time: 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs.16,28,000/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Only)	Rs.1,62,800/- (Rupees One Lakh Sixty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Only)	28.06.2024 @ 02:00 PM	27.06.2024, Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071
	Details of Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Flat No.FF-105, measuring 310 Sq.ft., of Super Built up area in the First Floor, constructed in House No.18/27, Old No.18/27, PID No.65-374-13/1/2/3, New Municipal No.13/7, New PID No.65-374-13/7, situated at Present Ward No.176, Old Ward No.65, of Nayanappa Shetty Palya (N S Palya), Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, under the Jurisdiction of BBMP and the entire building thereon is **Bounded by the: On the East:** 5 Feet passage and thereafter Sanjeevappa Property, **On the West:** Adugodi Papanna Property, **On the North:** Earlier Motappa property, presently Vajrappa Property and thereafter, Government Road, **On the South:** Earlier Motappa Property, presently Kamala Ganesh Property.									

The properties are being held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** & **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** and the E-Auction will be conducted **'On Line'**. The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider **M/s. 4 Closure** at the web portal **https://bankauctions.in** & **www.foreclosureindia.com.** For more information and For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact **M/s. 4 Closure; Contact Mr. M Srinivasulru Contact Number: 8142000809. Email id: info@bankauctions.in/ srinivas@bankauctions.in.**
For further details on terms and conditions to take part in e-auction proceedings and any for any query relating to property please contact **Jana Small Finance Bank authorized officers Mr. Ranjan Naik (Mob. No.9590858249), Mr. Umesh (Mob. No.8050149617) & Mrs. Syeda (Mob. No.7400445147).** To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there are no encumbrances on the properties. However the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on prior to submitting their bid. No conditional bid will be accepted. This is also a notice to the above named Borrowers/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors about e-auction scheduled for the mortgaged properties. The Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date: 27.05.2024, Place: Bangalore Rural & Bangalore
Sd/- Authorized Officer, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

HDFC BANK
HDFC BANK LIMITED
Regd. Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013
Branch: #51, HDFC House, Kasturba Road, Bangalore 560 001
Tel:-080-41183000 CIN L65920MH1994PLC080618 Website: www.hdfcbank.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **HDFC Bank Limited** (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) **(HDFC)** under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice/s, as per details given below. The undersigned have, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known respective addresses of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s). Copies of the said Notices are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.
In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) to pay to **HDFC,** within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below in their respective names, together with further interest @ 18% p.a. as detailed in the said Demand Notices from the respective dates mentioned below in column (c) till the date of payment and / or realization, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to **HDFC** by the said Borrower (s) respectively.
Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset/s.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative (s)	Total Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Security Interest has been created
(a)	(b)	c	(d)	(f)
1	**(1) Mrs. Thanvi Kuppanda (Borrower)** Pixxel Space India Private Limited, **Designation:** HR Operations, **Department:** Founders Officer, **Employee No:** BLR22, 677, 1st Floor Suite #784,, 13th Cross, Sector 1 HSR Layout, Bengaluru -560102 **Also at:** Pixxel Space India Private Limited, **Designation:** HR Operations, **Department:** Founders Officer, S # 722, CMH Road, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560038 **(2) Mr. Niranj Biddappa I A (Co-Borrower) both are residing at :** # 302 3rd Floor, Sree Grandeur, Sarjapura Main Road, Kasavanahalli, Carmelaram, Opposite Food World, Bengaluru-560035 **Also at:** Flat-B6-111, 1st Floor, Sobha Quartz Apartments, Sy No 32, Ibblur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Tq, Bengaluru-560076.	**Loan A/c Nos. 666761915 Rs.1,01,94,152/- (Rupees One Crore One Lakh Ninety Four Thousand One Hundred Fifty Two Only) as on 30.04.2024**	**17.05.2024 ..... N.P.A. Date: (e) 05.05.2024**	**Schedule A :** All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being a residential land in Survey **No.32,** situated at Ibblur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and Northern Portion in Sy.No.83 situated at Bellandur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, totally measuring about **11176.40 Sq. Mtrs.. (1,20,303 Sq.ft)** out of the total extent of land measuring **1,33,847 Sq.ft** (3Acres 3 Guntas) and **bounded on: East by :** Property belonging to previous vendors and Road, **West by :** Sy.No.34 of Ibbulur Village, **North by :** Sy.No.31 of Ibbulur Village and Sy.No.84 Bellandur Village and Private Property, **South by :** Sy.No.33 of Ibbulur Village and remaining portion of Sy.No.83 of Bellandur Village, Belonging to previous vendors . **Schedule B : 899.53 Square feet** of undivided share of right, title and interest in all that piece and parcel of the land in the Schedule A Property. **Schedule C :** All that piece and parcel of the **Residential Flat Bearing No.B6-111**, consisting of First Floor, bearing BBMP Khatha No. **801 /83/32/19/B6-111**, in the building known as **"SOBHA QUARTZ"**, Consisting of Three bedrooms, having a super built up area of **2335.51 Sq.ft.,** (which is in exclusive of the floors, ceiling and wall between the apartments and proportionate share in common areas and a share in the club house area) together with Two Covered Car Parking space in the basement floor

*with further interest cost, expenses, and charges as applicable incurred till the date of payment and / or realization. If the said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) fail to make payment to **HDFC Bank Limited** as aforesaid, then **HDFC Bank Limited** shall proceed against the above Secured Asset / Immovable Property under Section 13 (4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences.
The said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset / Immovable Property, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of **HDFC Bank Limited**. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 27.05.2024
Place: Bangalore
For HDFC Bank Ltd.
Sd/- Authorized Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd. under SARFAESI Act, 2002

₹22,000 CR have been pulled out by foreign investors from Indian equities so far.

All you want to know about KYC rule relaxation for MF investors

Now, investors can continue to put in their hard earned money into mutual funds without presenting additional documents to the fund house or unit registrar

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @MUMBAI

AS part of its efforts to increase "ease of investing", the capital markets watchdog Sebi early this month, did away with two cumbersome KYC requirements, both for the mutual funds sector. One is the withdrawal of the mandatory requirement of linking the PAN with the Aadhaar from May 14, and the other is the doing-away of the mandatory inputting of a nominee in case if the MF investment account is a joint account from April 30.

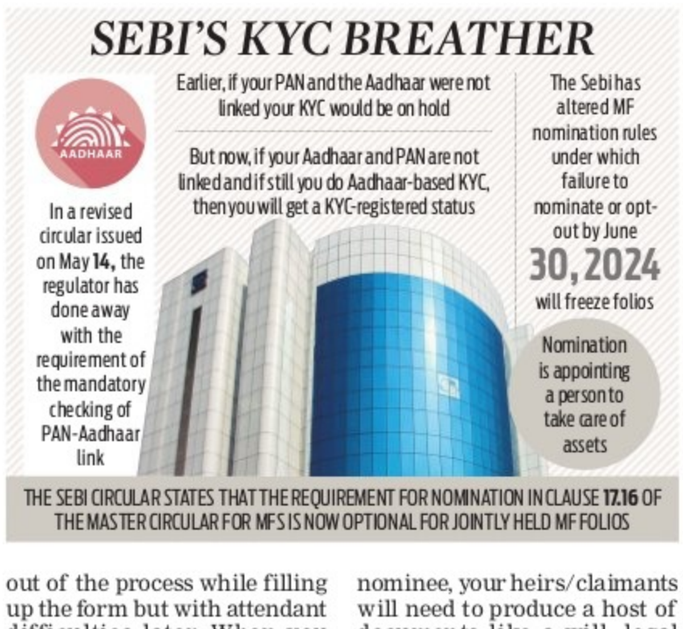
What's KYC registration?

The know-your-client (KYC) regulation is the process by which financial entities such as commercial banks, mutual fund houses and stock brokers are asked to verify an investor's identity before being allowed to invest in stocks or mutual funds or enter the equity markets through mutual fund schemes. In a revised circular issued on May 14, the regulator has done away with the requirement of the mandatory checking of PAN-Aadhaar link, offering a big relief to both existing investors as well as those looking to enter the market either directly into equities or passively through the mutual funds route—the two investment avenues which have been rocking in recent months. Linking these two official identity documents enables an investor the all-important 'KYC-registered' status. In the second relief, it had done away with the mandatory nominee demand for joint MFs investments from April 30.

And all that the regulator wanted from an investor was to prove her/his identity based on the 'officially valid document (OVD) such as the Aadhaar, passport, the PAN number or the voter ID card.'

What's the MF nomination?

Nomination is a process of appointing a person to take care of your assets in the event of your untimely death. In case if you do not wish to nominate, you have the option of opting out of the process while filling up the form but with attendant difficulties later. When you have a registered nominee or when you complete the nominee registration process, it facilitates easy transfer of funds to your nominee in the event of your death. In the absence of a nominee, your heirs/claimants will need to produce a host of documents like a will, legal heir certificate, NoCs from other legal heirs etc, to get your MF units transferred in her/his name. Earlier, if your PAN and the Aadhaar were not linked your KYC would be on hold, which means your investment cannot be withdrawn. But now, if your Aadhaar and PAN are not linked and if you still do Aadhaar-based KYC, then you will get a KYC-registered status. This is what the regulator has done away with the May 14 circular. Another requirement pertained to optional nominations for joint mutual fund accounts, which it has done away with through the April 30 circular.


SEBI'S KYC BREATHER
Earlier, if your PAN and the Aadhaar were not linked your KYC would be on hold
But now, if your Aadhaar and PAN are not linked and if still you do Aadhaar-based KYC, then you will get a KYC-registered status
In a revised circular issued on May 14, the regulator has done away with the requirement of the mandatory checking of PAN-Aadhaar link
The Sebi has altered MF nomination rules under which failure to nominate or opt-out by June 30, 2024 will freeze folios
Nomination is appointing a person to take care of assets
THE SEBI CIRCULAR STATES THAT THE REQUIREMENT FOR NOMINATION IN CLAUSE 17.16 OF THE MASTER CIRCULAR FOR MFS IS NOW OPTIONAL FOR JOINTLY HELD MF FOLIOS

The Sebi circular dated April 30 states that the requirement for nomination in Clause 17.16 of the master circular for mutual funds is now optional for jointly held mutual fund folios. However, all other rules regarding nomination in the master circular from May 19, 2023, and the Sebi circular from December 27, 2023, remain unchanged. Had it not been done away with after June 30, 2024, which was the fourth extension, fund houses would have frozen those folios which don't have a nominee in place, which means that the investor will not be able to switch or redeem investments.

Big reliefs/benefits

With the April 30 circular, the Sebi has altered mutual fund nomination rules under which failure to nominate or opt-out by June 30, 2024, will freeze folios. With this circular, the Sebi has said you no longer need to name a nominee for your joint MF accounts.

Till this circular was in place all individual MF unitholders had to nominate someone or opt out of the nomination process by June 30, 2024. If not, their folios would have been blocked from any transactions. But the nomination was a cumbersome process as MF unitholders were mandated to submit their nomination details in a specific format or opt out by filling out a set declaration form. Investors were finding the new rules too cumbersome as it demanded a two-factor authentication for login both for submitting a nominee details or choosing to opt out of the nomination if the account was opened online. But if the account-opening was offline then one would have to make rounds to the fund house office filling up the nomination form, signing it, and submitting it to the registrar and transfer agent directly.

This decision has been taken after it has come to the notice that after the stricter KYC norms came to force form April 1, many retail investors could not put money into MF schemes afresh if their ID-linking was not done. The impact was most on non-residents who are a big source of fund-flow into the ₹57.3 lakh crore fund industry, as they were not required to have a Aadhaar card—rather cannot have one at all if they have any other local address and ID proof.

The biggest benefit from the doing-away of the PAN-Aadhaar linking is that you as an investor can continue to put in your hard earned money into MFs without presenting additional documents to the fund house or unit registrar and transfer agent.

MONEY MATTERS

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE NEW GOVERNMENT

IN a few days, the biggest democratic exercise in the world will determine the fate of the incumbent Narendra Modi government. No matter the next ruling dispensation, your money deserves a government that manages finances well. Your money is affected by the inflation and interest rates in the economy. You want your government to generate sufficient tax revenue to pay for adequate expenditure on infrastructure. While generating sufficient tax revenue, you want the new government to be fair to you as a taxpayer.

Taxing times

From the election campaign, you could pick up economic noises. The present government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, promises more of the same for managing government finances and capital expenditure on infrastructure in the economy. They believe that investing in infrastructure could trigger economic activity and enhance productivity in the long term. On the other hand, the opposition parties want to give more money to the hands of people experiencing poverty to boost rural and urban consumption.

All political parties are very clear about the fact that India is not a tax haven state. The opposition parties have spoken of redistribution of wealth from the rich to the poor. That means there would be little hope for lower taxes for those already paying them. However, the new government has much to consider in rationalising the existing tax system.

The goods and services tax (GST) monthly collection is at a record high for April 2024. The government is collecting the expenditure tax from everyone. It means no matter your income, you pay GST on everything you consume. That was the case before GST implementation, too. You paid a multitude of central, state and local body taxes.

GST has combined everything and created a more straightforward administrative system. That has resulted in an efficient and high collection of indirect taxes. The government needs to bring down peak GST rates as revenue grows to give relief to the ordinary people.

On the income tax issue, it is a tricky situation. Significantly, few people in the country pay taxes. It is a truth that does not require any specific data. At the same time, the economic inequality in the country continues to remain elevated. Depending on the data you look at, there could be a possibility of a marginal decline in it. However, a paper by Thomas Piketty, a Nobel Laureate and three of his other colleagues argues that the inequality in India is rooted in the caste system.

A quarter of the upper caste people control more than half of the country's wealth. They said that about 1% of people control nearly 40% of the nation's wealth. They recommend a path for redistribution of wealth and estate. These experts recommend an annual wealth tax and an inheritance tax to tackle inequality in India. They will apply only above a high exemption threshold of ₹10 crore worth of net wealth.

While no political party has endorsed these recommendations, it shows a mirror to the new government that would assume office in June 2024. It also shows us that we must be ready to pay more taxes in the future as we generate wealth by managing our finances. The new government must take taxpayers into confidence by creating more transparency than ever in tax collection and utilisation. The government can allocate the money mobilised through new taxes to boost social infrastructure spending on education and healthcare.

What it means to you

The debate over the rich and the poor will influence policy-making in the future. As an individual, you must accept that you would pay more tax as you grow rich. You can prepare for that by regularly saving and investing. Good financial habits must start early in your career so that you can take a rational view of government finances.

You need a government that builds social and physical infrastructure. However, you also need them to have enough money to do so. If the government does not have enough money, it will borrow more and stoke inflation. That is counter-productive from your personal finance standpoint.

MONEY-WISE

FINANCIAL ADVICE

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(Views expressed here are personal)

SIMULATING MARKET IMPACT OF ELECTION RESULTS

I do not claim to be a political soothsayer or expert by any yardstick, and my area of limited domain expertise remains the financial markets. As I have often said before, usually the only thing tougher than predicting the markets is predicting an electoral verdict.

While investing, one needs to be clinical and set aside one's political views and prejudices. Hence, let us embark on an electoral verdict simulation exercise and its probable impact on the stock indices which have understandably turned volatile ahead of the election finale. Given that the ruling party and the formation it leads started this election as favourites and still remains so, we shall base all our hypothesis around the number of seats they might win.

Scenario 1: The ruling BJP secures 340-350 seats and the NDA Alliance crosses 370 seats (2/3rd majority).

While the immediate reaction to this verdict might be euphoric, it could lead to a cool-off thereafter as the return to business as usual commences. Thereafter, a growth-oriented Budget powered by a two-third majority, could then propel the race of the Sensex to new highs. The 'continuity' factor that the equity market usually derives comfort from, will provide an additional booster.

Scenario 2: The ruling BJP secures 290-315 seats and the NDA Alliance secures 315-345 seats (clear majority)

While the immediate reaction to this verdict might be muted given that expectations were running high at the outset, it could lead to a period of sideways movement as the market waits to gauge the direction provided in the Budget that follows.

Scenario 3: The ruling BJP secures 240-265 seats and the NDA Alliance secures 272-290 seats (narrow majority)

While the immediate reaction to this verdict might be alarming, it could lead to a minor sell-off as the market waits to gauge which parties will help to form the government and the ministries they might extract as a result.

Scenario 4: The ruling BJP secures lesser than 210-230 seats and the NDA Alliance secures 235-250 seats (short of majority)

While the immediate reaction to this verdict might be panic, it could lead to a sell-off as the market waits to gauge which parties will form the government and the ministries they might gain as a result. The choice of the finance minister in this case, more than the earlier simulated three scenarios, could well determine the mood of the market thereafter.

Do any of these four simulations suggest that long-term investors need to react immediately before or post the electoral result? Methinks not. Given that the Indian economy is well poised to continue reaping the benefits of the economic liberalisation program initiated three decades ago, chances are that the Indian equity market which withstood the outflow of FII funds pre-election could get a booster shot when they inevitably return.

Yes, temporary setbacks might occur like in any other economy and stock market, but the long-term outlook remains sound and I for one have no doubts that I will continue on my chosen investment path, with my Asset Allocation plan on the radar.

BharatPe, PhonePe settle long-standing trademark disputes over 'Pe' suffix

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @Bengaluru

FINTECH unicorns BharatPe Group and PhonePe Group on Sunday announced that they have amicably settled all long-standing legal disputes pertaining to the use of the trademark with the suffix 'Pe'.

BharatPe and PhonePe had been involved in long-drawn legal disputes across multiple courts, over the course of the last five years. The settlement will put an end to all open judicial proceedings, the companies said in a joint statement.

As a next step, parties have already taken steps to withdraw all opposition against each other in the trademark registry, which will help them to proceed with the registration of their respective trademarks, the statement said. "This is a positive development for the industry.

I appreciate the maturity and professionalism shown by the Management of both sides, working closely to resolve all outstanding legal issues and moving ahead to focus their energy and resources in building robust digital payment ecosystems," BharatPe, Chairman of the Board, Rajnish Kumar said.

Both organisations will undertake to take other necessary steps to comply with the obligations under the settlement agreement in respect of all cases before Delhi High Court and Bombay High Court.

"I am glad that we have reached an amicable resolution in this matter. This outcome will benefit both companies to move forward and focus our collective energy on growing the Indian fintech industry as a whole," PhonePe, Founder and CEO, Sameer Nigam said.

India in trade deficit with 9 of top 10 partners

PTI @ New Delhi

INDIA has recorded a trade deficit, the difference between imports and exports, with nine of its top 10 trading partners, including China, Russia, Singapore, and Korea, in 2023-24, according to official data.

The data also showed that the deficit with China, Russia, Korea, and Hong Kong increased in the last fiscal compared to 2022-23, while the trade gap with the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Indonesia, and Iraq narrowed.

The trade deficit with China rose to $85 billion, Russia to $57.2 billion, Korea to $14.71 billion and Hong Kong to $12.2 billion in 2023-24 against $83.2 billion, $ 43 billion, $14.57 billion and $8.38 billion, respectively, in 2022-23.

China has emerged as India's largest trading partner with $118.4 billion of two-way commerce in 2023-24, edging past the US. The bilateral trade between India and the US stood at $118.28 billion in 2023-24.

'Shriram Finance looking for strategic partner'

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ MUMBAI

THE Shriram Group, which earlier this month exited the housing finance arm selling its entire 85% stake to the American private equity major Warburg Pincus for ₹4,630 crore, is looking at a strategic partner for its flagship Shriram Finance, the largest auto-focused non-bank lender today. The Chennai-based group, founded by the industry veterans Ramamurthy Thyagarajan, AVS Raja and T Jayaraman way back in 1974, is also into general and life insurance businesses, apart from wealth management, and real estate besides the cash-cow commercial vehicles, two & four-wheelers, gold loans, and small business loans.

"We are looking at a strategic/financial partner for Shriram Finance. Though I have the board mandate to rope in a strategic partner, I haven't started negotiations with anyone yet. But yes, we are seriously looking at strategic investment, we have a huge growth opportunity in our business," the vice chairman Umesh Govind Revankar told TNIE in aninteraction at his Mumbai headquarters without offering a timeline for the same and how much stake they are ready to pare except saying the holding company's 25% stake won't be diluted. When asked if it could be a PE partner, he ruled out they being the preferred choice saying "we aren't keen on roping in a private equity player; we would be keen on a strong group with deep pockets to be our financial and strategic partner". Explaining the rationale for looking at a non-PE partner Revankar said, normally PEs invest in listed companies and our holding company Shriram Capital is privately held.Also, PEs demand higher stake, but we will not go down below 25%. So that makes a non-PE player a better fit for us." It can be noted that in late 2011, Piramal Enterprises had entered the ShriramGroup investing ₹4,583 crore in three Shriram businesses but exited the stake through block deals in June 2023.

Piramal also had 20% stake in Shriram Investment Holdings, which the Chennai group is now trying to buyback for which it had invested ₹1,440 crore. Piramal held 8.34% in Shriram Finance which it exited in June 2023 for ₹4,824 crore.

On the reason for the Ajay Piramal led group to exit, Ravankar said, since there was no non-compete clause in the investment agreement, once they entered the financialsector on their own doing it separately made better commercial sense. On his business growth this fiscal, Revankar said he expects loan growth to come in at least 15%, and also maintain stable margins at 9%. This optimism is based on the cost of funds marginally coming down from the second half as he sees a rate cut in the third quarter.

Led by commercial vehicle finance which is as much as 47.5% of its loan book,the auto sector exposure is as high as 82% for the company but Revanker is comfortable with the current asset mix up, though he would not mind increasing the gold loan book which today is only 2.8% or ₹6,300 crore as of end-March.

"Of our 3,000 branches, gold loan is available at only 1500 of them now. Given its demand and the more than fully secured nature, we want to grow it faster. Accordingly, 500 more of our branches will offer gold loans this fiscal," he said.

They are planning to open 150 more branches this fiscal, he added. On fund raising he said to fuel a 15% loan growth we would need at least ₹30,000 crore of additional capital, which we will raise from the market andt hrough banks.

The company closed the March quarter with ₹2,021 crore net income, which was 57% more than what it had earned in the same period of FY23.

Holder replaced by McCoy in WI squad for T20 WC

The West Indies named **Obed McCoy** as Jason Holder's replacement for the T20 World Cup, with the latter being ruled out due to an injury which he sustained while playing the County Championship. The Cricket West Indies said that the player will require a recovery period and the team's medical staff will provide all support "to ensure his swift and complete recovery".

WOW KOLKATA! STARC CONTRAST IN HAPPY TIDINGS

Thanks to clinical bowling show against SRH at Chepauk in final, KKR clinch 3rd IPL title

GOMESH S @ Chennai

Kolkata Knight Riders contingent celebrate with the trophy in Chennai on Sunday | ASHWIN PRASATH

SUNDAY afternoon in Chennai brought with it a strange feeling. It was hot, as always. But the extreme humidity made one feel like there would be some showers in the evening, affecting the 2024 Indian Premier League final. With the local team — Chennai Super Kings — not featuring in the summit clash, the buzz for the Kolkata Knight Riders and Sunrisers Hyderabad contest was not the same.

However, it all had changed by the time Pat Cummins won the toss and opted to bat against the team that hadn't lost while chasing in 2024. There was a clear fan favourite in the stands — the Kolkata. It was all setting up for the perfect finale. A team that had completely bought into the idea that their batters are key to win games against a side that perhaps had the best combination across the playing XI. Hyderabad's method of asking both openers to take on the powerplay was not foolproof. They knew it. But as Cummins admitted several times in the last two months, it gave them better odds at winning the match.

KKR, on the other hand, was a near perfect side. They had explosive openers, an experienced anchor and destructive finishers. But the biggest difference? They had the better bowling attack. Two imposing spinners in Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarthy and then four pacers, led by Mitchell Starc. Their problem was that Starc was not necessarily leading from the front even though it had not cost them in results. And like SRH, they too knew that Starc might not deliver in every single time. But they knew he had the tools to win games, big games, in a given season. That is exactly what he had done, including the Qualifier 1 against the same opponents they were facing in the final.

MOST RUNS	MOST SIXES
741 Virat Kohli	42 Abhishek Sharma
MOST WICKETS	**MOST DOTS**
24 Harshal Patel	149 Jasprit Bumrah

PREVIOUS TITLES FOR KKR

2012 and 2014

As Starc marked his run-up for one last time this season, both teams were hoping that the odds they were betting on would come off. For Hyderabad, the openers to fire. For Kolkata, Starc to give a new-ball breakthrough. In sport, however, one cannot have it both ways. Having lost his stumps to a near perfect yorker to Starc in the Qualifier 1, Head let Abhishek take strike. The first ball was a regulation out-swinger that beat Sharma's outside edge. Starc followed that opener with two similar deliveries. Off the fourth ball, Starc went fuller and the young Indian guided it for a couple while almost getting run out in the process. The tension was building. One could sense that something was about to happen. It did. Off the fifth ball, Starc ran in before pitching it in a good length area on middle stump. The 139.1 kph ball just moved away, missed Sharma's outside edge before hitting the top of off. Dream delivery? Yes. Ball of the season? Yes. But it was also so much more. Such was the impact of that delivery that it left Head hanging in the crease all through the next over. And Vaibhav Arora would deliver a perfect outswinger to take the outside edge of the Australian. Three overs later, Starc removed a restless Rahul Tripathi. 3/21 after 4.2 overs. Game. Set. Match. Championship.

From there, it was just a prolonged spell of misery for Hyderabad. Sunil Narine, Harshit Rana, Varun Chakravarthy and Andre Russell all took wickets as SRH were bundled out for 113 in 18.2 overs. Starc, who bagged yet another player of the final award, finished with 2/14, setting up the contest which Kolkata won by eight wickets, adding a third IPL trophy to the cabinet. As Venkatesh Iyer hit the winning runs, the Kolkata players ran into the field of play to get the party started.

Even their mentor Gautam Gambhir had the widest of grins on his face as he lifted Narine, one of the primary architects of this triumph. After all, it was a full circle for the former KKR captain. This venue is where he first lifted an IPL trophy as a captain and player for the same team 12 years ago. He was brought back to KKR as mentor to end the ten year trophy drought. He did just that, by putting together the most all-round bowling attack of the season.

Hot night, cool Knights at Chepauk

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @ Chennai

A professional display by Kolkata Knight Riders enabled the Shreyas Iyer-led side to restrict Sunrisers Hyderabad to 113 in 18.3 overs in the final of the IPL played at the MA Chidambaram stadium here on Sunday.

Mitchell Starc bowled with a lot of fire and zest to give KKR the initial breakthroughs. Later, Harshit Rana (2/24) and Andre Russell (3/19) capitalized on the Australian's efforts to inflict further wounds upon the SRH batters. The SRH top order paid the price for poor shot selection. They forgot that even in T20, there is a method in madness.

Not for nothing is Starc is rated as one of the best left-arm fast bowlers in the world. Before the start of the league, Australian pace legend Glenn McGrath, had full faith in Starc. He believed the spearhead would deliver. Starc accounted for the in-form Abhishek Sharma and Rahul Tripathi. His strikes created a ripple effect as the SRH batters got bogged down and threw away their wickets one after another.

''Starc is the best left-arm fast bowler in the business. The price at which he was picked in the auction does not matter. He has played high pressure games and on the big stage he will certainly deliver. You need experience playing on the big stage and Starc knows the process," McGrath had opined to this daily before the IPL began.

True to the 'Pigeon's words, Starc's fiery opening burst (2-14) dented all hopes of a tall chase. Cummins won the toss but they had a disastrous start as Sharma was castled by a peach of a delivery from Starc. The Australian speedster tested Abhiskek on the off peg with subtle swing. Off the fifth ball of the first over, Starc changed lines and angled in the ball with good pace and Abhishek was beaten neck and crop.

Vaibhav Arora drew confidence from Starc's brilliant over and chose to attack the SRH batters. He was able to move the ball and get swing. An away swinger after pitching on leg caught Travis Head's outside edge with Rahmanullah Gurbaz doing the rest. Now. a lot depended upon Tripathi and Aiden Markram to do the rescue act. SRH banked a lot on Tripathi who gave a good account of himself in the Qualifier 2 game against Rajasthan.

But both Tripathi and Markram could not force the pace. One wonders if some surface level residual moisture yielded some swing for the bowlers (it has rained over the past few days in Chennai).

Tripathi, who likes to attack from the word go, could not do so as Starc was bowing tight lines. In order to one up over the Aussie, Tripathi went for an acrobatic stroke only to top edge and sky the ball to Ramandeep Singh at short mid wicket. Nitish Reddy, who played a few match winning knocks in the league phase, failed in the big stage due to Inexperience.

Kolkata captain Shreyas Iyer also deserves some plaudits as he made some gun bowling changes. One of his best decisions though, was to keep Starc on for a third over in the powerplay. With the cream of the SRH top order back in the hut, a lot depended upon the last recognized pair of Markram and Heinrich Klaasen. But that was not to be.

Andre Russell's short of length deliveries had a bit of extra bounce, and one of those deliveries got him the wicket of Markram. The South African, who has had a disappointing campaign, couldn't clear the man at long on. Klaasen wanted to get a partnership or two going but there was no support at the other end. Running out of partners, he too perished as he was cleaned up by Rana. With that SRH hopes of posting a challenging total vanished.

Needing a miracle, Hyderabad started positively as they got the wicket of Sunil Narine but Venkatesh Iyer and Gurbaz ensured there would be no other hiccups. **Brief scores:** SRH 113 in 18.3 ovs (Cummins 24; Starc 2/14, Harshit 2/24, Russell 3/19) **lost to** KKR 114/2 (Venkatesh 52 n.o, Gurbaz 39).

SRH's Aiden Markram makes a desperate lunge to avoid a run out | ASHWIN PRASATH

EXPRESS READ

Archer Deepika falls to South Korea's Lim

YECHEON (SOUTH KOREA): Deepika Kumari fell short of a successive Archery World Cup medal in her international comeback after becoming a mother, losing to World No 2 Lim Sihyeon and No 3 Alejandra Valencia here. Indian archers thus returned empty-handed in the recurve category. Lim prevailed 6-2 (28-26, 28-28, 28-27, 27-27) in the semifinal.

EFI contemplating legal options after HC call

NEW DELHI: The Equestrian Federation of India (EFI) is contemplating legal options after the Delhi High Court appointed an ad-hoc panel to manage its affairs, saying the verdict will put a huge financial burden on the sport body that can either manage the fee of committee or work for the growth of the game.

Women's hockey team loses 0-3 to Argentina

ANTWERP: The Indian women's hockey team continued its winless streak in the Belgium leg of the FIH Pro League, slumping to 0-3 defeat against Argentina here on Sunday. Celina Di Santo (1st minute), Maria Campoy (39th) and Maria Granatto (47th) scored for Argentina. The Indian team will now take on Germany in its next match at London on June 1.

Boxers Abhinash, Nishant advance

BANGKOK: Indian boxers continued their winning run in the second World Boxing Qualifiers for Paris Olympics as Abhinash Jamwal (63.5kg) and Nishant Dev (71kg) won their bouts here. Jamwal beat Andriejus Lavrenovas of Lithuania by 5-0 verdict. Nishant beat Armando Bighafa of Guinea-Bissau by same margin.

Dipa 1st Indian gymnast to win Asian C'ships gold

TASHKENT: Top Indian gymnast Dipa Karmakar on Sunday became the first from the country to win a gold medal in the Asian Senior Championships as she clinched the yellow metal in the women's vault event here. The 30-year-old Dipa secured an average of 13.566 in the vault final on the last day.

Sindhu squanders lead to miss out on Malaysia title

AGENCIES @ Kuala Lumpur

STAR Indian shuttler PV Sindhu blew away a massive 11-3 lead in the deciding game of the Malaysia Masters final against Wang Zhi Yi, missing out on a great opportunity to end her title drought here on Sunday.

The trophy was well within her reach but the World No 15 suffered a shocking meltdown after the final change of ends to go down 21-16, 5-21, 16-21 against the Chinese World No 7 in 79 minutes.

Fifth seed Sindhu, a double Olympic medallist, last won the Singapore Open and Commonwealth Games gold in 2022 and finished runner-up at the Madrid Spain Masters in 2023. The title would have been the icing on the cake but her impressive run to the final will still give her a lot of confidence as Sindhu looks to put the finishing touches ahead of the Paris Olympics. It was her first final appearance on the BWF World Tour after more than a year. "Overall, I can say that it's been a very good match. It's a bit disappointing, but a lot of positives to take from this match and the whole tournament as well," said Sindhu.

"I am happy that I at least came to the finals, I played well. These matches will definitely give me a lot of confidence, but I could have won that. It's just not one of those days."

Sindhu used a combination of poise and power to dominate the proceedings against the reigning Asian champion Wang for most part of the match but all fell apart after the break in the decider as the trophy slipped out of her hands.

A silver and bronze medallist in the last two editions of the Olympics, Sindhu had lost to Wang at the Arctic Open last year but has defeated the Chinese twice in three meetings.

Interestingly, it was Wang against whom Sindhu had won the finals during her last BWF title at the Singapore Open.

F1: Tears of joy for Leclerc after victory

AGENCIES @ Monte Carlo

CHARLES Leclerc finally broke his Monaco Grand Prix curse on Sunday as Red Bull had an off weekend with Max Verstappen sixth and Sergio Perez crashing out on the first lap.

Leclerc ended years of frustration at his home race by taking the jewel in the Formula One calendar from pole at his third attempt. A tearful Leclerc said: "No words can explain this. It means a lot, it's the race that made me dream of becoming a F1 driver. Tonight is going to be a big night!"

McLaren's Oscar Piastri followed the man from Monaco across the line with Carlos Sainz in the other Ferrari in third. Leclerc had started at the front of the grid at the circuit he used to travel along on the bus to school as a kid in 2021 and 2022 only for misfortune to stop him winning on both occasions. **Monaco GP results (top six):** 1. C Leclerc (Ferrari); 2. O Piastri (Mclaren); 3. C Sainz (Ferrari); 4. L Norris (Mclaren); 5. G Russell (Mercedes); 6. M Verstappen (Red Bull).

As precaution, Neeraj to skip Ostrava competition

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

IT was before the National Federation Senior Athletics Competition at Bhubaneswar did Neeraj Chopra and his team decided to participate at the Ostrava Golden Spike meet on Tuesday. With two days left for the Ostrava meet, the organisers put up on their website that Neeraj had some issue with abductor muscle and has decided not to participate.

Hours later, he and his team clarified that he is fine and he is skipping because he did not want to risk. "Following a recent throwing session, I decided not to compete in Ostrava as I felt something in my adductor. I have had problems with it in the past and pushing it at this stage can lead to injury," Chopra posted on *Instagram*. "Just to clarify, I am not injured but I don't want to take any risk during the Olympic year so had to take this decision. Once I feel it's fully recovered, I will get back to competitions," he added. The goal after all is defending his javelin crown at the Olympics.

The Indian will be replaced by European champion Julian Weber from Germany, who threw 88.37 on Friday. He will be the biggest challenger to Jakub Vadlejch. Neeraj last participated at the Federation Cup athletics competition where he managed just 82.27m. Even then, he passed two rounds because he did not want to strain himself after overtaking DP Manu with the fourth throw. After his fourth throw, Neeraj went to his coaching staff before deciding to not throw anymore in the hot and humid conditions in Bhubaneswar. Even at that time, he was feeling his thigh and the groin region. Having flown in from Doha the three days before the event, Neeraj did not get much time to recover. It needs to be seen where he will compete next.

Southampton beat Leeds to return to EPL

AGENCIES @ London

SOUTHAMPTON clinched promotion back to the Premier League after a one-year exile as Adam Armstrong sealed a 1-0 win against Leeds in the Championship play-off final on Sunday.

Armstrong's first-half strike at Wembley ensured Southampton erased the bitter taste of last year's relegation from the top-flight with an immediate return.

Victory in football's single richest match will give Southampton an estimated £140 million ($178 million) windfall due to the increases in matchday, broadcast and commercial revenue for clubs who reach the Premier League.

While the cash prize is a huge bonus, it is the prestige of competing with Manchester City and Arsenal, rather than second-tier minnows like Plymouth and Oxford, that fuelled Southampton's hunger to regain their Premier League status after a year in purgatory.

FRENCH OPEN

Don't need too many matches to be at my best: Alcaraz after taming Wolf

AGENCIES @ Paris

CARLOS Alcaraz maintained his record of never losing in the first round of a Grand Slam by taming JJ Wolf at the French Open on Sunday, shrugging off his injury-hit build-up by insisting: "I don't need too many matches to be at my best".

The World No 3 and reigning Wimbledon champion eased through 6-1, 6-2, 6-1 against Wolf, the 107th-ranked player who entered the main draw as a 'lucky loser' from qualifying. Alcaraz, 21, who made the semifinals in 2023 where he was defeated by Novak Djokovic, took his first round record at the Majors to 13-0.

Alcaraz showed no sign of suffering from the right arm injury which sidelined him from the Rome Open as he coasted to victory on the back of 27 winners and nine breaks of serve. "I don't need too many matches to be at my best," said Alcaraz. "I only played four times in Madrid. Of course, I'd have loved to have played more but I don't need many to be at 100 per cent. "I have practised with a lot of top players in Paris this week and the forearm is feeling better and better."

Alcaraz, who was wearing a protective sleeve on his troublesome right arm, added: "I'm with low expectations coming into this tournament, but after the practice week, after this first round, the confidence is higher. My expectations probably got higher."

Wolf arrived in Paris with just one win on tour all year but he surprised Alcaraz by breaking in the first game. However that was as good as it got for the 25-year-old as Alcaraz swept the next eight games, setting the tone for the match, before the American managed to hold serve for the first time in the third game of the second set.

Carlos Alcaraz hits a return against JJ Wolf in the opening round on Sunday | AFP

Even closing the roof at the end of the second set was of no help to the hapless Wolf who has still to defeat a top-10 player in his career.

SELECT RESULTS

(First Round): Men: A Rublev (RUS x6) bt T Daniel (JPN) 6-2, 6-7 (3), 6-3, 7-5; P Martinez (ESP) bt T Tirante (ARG) 5-7, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3; L Sonego (ITA) bt U Humbert (FRA x17) 6-4, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3; C Alcaraz (ESP x3) bt JJ Wolf (USA) 6-1, 6-2, 6-1; G Dimitrov (BUL x10) bt A Kovacevic (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 **Women:** N Osaka (JPN) bt L Bronzetti (ITA) 6-1, 4-6, 7-5; M Bouzkova (CZE) bt V Kudermetova (RUS x29) 6-2, 6-4; D Vekic (CRO) bt L Tsurenko (UKR) 6-5 - retired; D Yastremska (UKR x30) bt A Tomljanovic (AUS) 3-6, 6-3, 6-3; J Ostapenko (LAT x9) bt J Cristian (ROM) 6-4, 7-5; W Yafan (CHN) bt M Timofeeva (RUS) 6-3, 6-3.

Osaka off to winning start

In the women's section, Naomi Osaka swept to her first victory at the French Open in three years on the day. Osaka needed three sets to defeat Italy's 48th-ranked Lucia Bronzetti on the showpiece Court Philippe Chatrier, 6-1, 4-6, 7-5. The 26-year-old fired 31 winners, including six aces, and 45 unforced errors in a match where she gave up a 4-0 lead in the decider before finding herself 5-4 down. However, she rallied strongly to register her first win at a Grand Slam since the 2022 Australian Open. **R1 continues at 2.30pm; live on Sony Sports**

IT IS ESSENTIAL TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT FIRM FOR YOUR CA ARTICLESHIP. TO HELP YOU MAKE THE BEST DECISION, **SAUMYANGI YADAV** GATHERS INPUTS FROM ARTICLES WORKING WITH BIG, MID-SIZE AND SMALL CA FIRMS. LET US LOOK INTO HOW EACH OF THESE DIFFER

Identifying the best fit BIG 4 VS OTHER FIRMS

CA INTERMEDIATE EXAM PAPERS

GROUP I

PAPER-1 Advanced Accounting
3 HOURS | 100 MARKS | PASS PERCENTAGE: MIN 40%

PAPER-2 Corporate and Other Laws
3 HOURS | 100 MARKS | PASS PERCENTAGE: MIN 40%

PAPER-3 Taxation (Income-tax Law and Goods and Service Tax)
3 HOURS | 100 MARKS | PASS PERCENTAGE: MIN 40%

GROUP II

PAPER-4 Cost and Management Accounting
3 HOURS | 100 MARKS | PASS PERCENTAGE: MIN 40%

PAPER-5 Auditing and Ethics
3 HOURS | 100 MARKS | PASS PERCENTAGE: MIN 40%

PAPER-6 Financial Management and Strategic Management
3 HOURS | 100 MARKS | PASS PERCENTAGE: MIN 40%

Eligibility: There are two routes. The first option is they have to qualify for the CA Foundation exam. The second option is through the Direct Entry Route after qualifying the graduation, postgraduation or a particular level of professional degree programme

Validity: Five years from the date of registration. Can be invalidated with a fee of ₹400

Paper pattern: 30% case scenario/case-study-based MCQs and 70% descriptive questions

WHY IS ARTICLESHIP IMPORTANT?

ARTICLED TRAINING OR PRACTICAL TRAINING IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE CA COURSE AND REQUIRES A STUDENT TO UNDERGO FULL-TIME TRAINING UNDER A PRACTISING CA OR CA IN SERVICE. HERE ARE A FEW WAYS IT BENEFITS AN ASPIRING CA...

- Develops necessary skills in applying theoretical knowledge to practical situations
- Provides insights into how organisations function
- Develops ethical values in students
- Inculcates a disciplined attitude for hard work
- Endows professional orientation among trainees

Preparation tips for CA Inter Exam

- Choose your study material from reputable sources and ensure the resources are up-to-date
- Have a clear understanding of exam pattern, stay familiar with the new ICAI syllabus
- Stay consistent with your study schedule. Stay updated with the latest notifications and amendments provided by ICAI
- Recognise your strengths and weaknesses in different subjects and allocate time accordingly
- Set aside at least 60 days for revisions. If you're a repeater, leverage your experience in previous attempts
- Do not forget to take breaks and get enough rest

Who can take articles?

As per ICAI, *an associate or a fellow member who has been in practice continuously in India, or a paid assistant with a CA in practice or in a firm, shall only be eligible to engage articled assistants. These are the number of articles one has entitlement to as per requirements:*

IN INDIA

An associate or fellow in continuous practice for a period up to 3 years — **1**
An associate or fellow in continuous practice for any period from 3 years to 5 years — **3**
An associate or fellow in continuous practice for any period from 5 years to 10 years — **7**
An associate or fellow in continuous practice for any period from 10 years — **10**

OUTSIDE INDIA

Provided that the CA under ICAI is registered as an auditor and has obtained a license and registration number from the appropriate competent authority abroad to establish a professional firm and carry out the attest function. An associate or a fellow member practising outside India shall be eligible to train articled assistants as under:

An associate or fellow in continuous practice for a period up to 3 years — **1**
An associate or fellow in continuous practice for any period from 3 years to 5 years — **2**
An associate or fellow in continuous practice for any period from 5 years to 10 years — **4**
An associate or fellow in continuous practice for any period from 10 years — **5**

STIPEND TO AN ARTICLED ASSISTANT

ICAI has set minimum rates of monthly stipend to a person registered as an articled assistant specified under the Chartered Accountants Regulations, 1988. The current minimum rates of monthly stipend payable, depending on the place of service, are as follows:

CLASSIFICATION OF PLACE OF SERVICE	STIPEND		
	1st year	2nd year	3rd year
• Cities/towns having population of 20 lakh and above	₹4,000	₹5,000	₹6,000
• Cities/towns having population of 5 lakh and above but less than 20 lakh	₹3,000	₹4,000	₹5,000

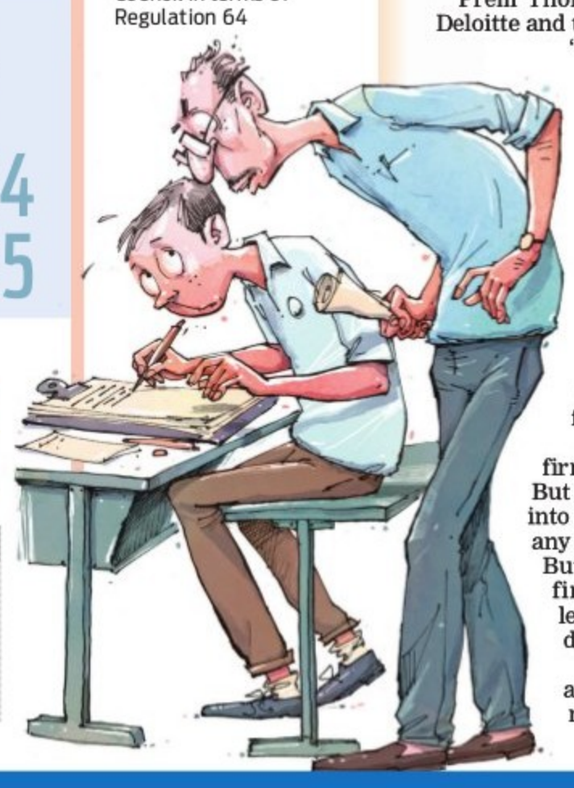
Articleship outside India?

PART OF ARTICLED TRAINING OUTSIDE INDIA

1 A Principal, with the consent of the articled assistant, may assign the latter to a member outside India for a period not exceeding six months. The member must be eligible to train such trainees under the by-laws of an institution established in that country in accordance with the Statutes.

2 No Deed of Articles need to be executed for such training, nor any intimation be sent to the Institute in this regard

3 The Principal shall include the particulars of such training in the Report to the Council in terms of Regulation 64



IF YOU are going for your articleship as a part of your Chartered Accountancy (CA) journey, chances are you are also pondering over one of the major questions among CA aspirants — Should I go for Big 4 or mid-sized CA firms?

While the Big 4 — Deloitte, Ernst and Young, KPMG, and PwC — are the four largest global accounting firms and a dream destination for anyone who enters the field, they might or might not be the best fit for you, depending on what your future career path looks like. To delve deeper into this debate, we reached out to several CA articles, from big, mid-size as well as small CA firms to understand how they made the choice.

What is your final goal?

While the big firms will provide you with an excellent clientele and brand value, chances are that your exposure will be limited to just one domain. So, if you plan to start your career as a professional with expertise in a particular domain, you should aim for one of the Big 4.

Anchal Upadyay, who is pursuing her CA articleship in Corporate and International Tax from KPMG, explained, "In the Big 4, you will have to choose from either auditing and tax. For example, if you choose tax, there will be choices like GST/Indirect tax, professional tax and so on. So you have to choose a field and the exposure is very niche for each of them. In comparison, in mid-size or smaller firms, you get experience in all the fields and that is why a few students prefer that."

On the other hand, if you want to pursue independent practice after completing the CA qualification, you will need knowledge in all domains, and hence, going for a mid-size firm might be your best choice.

Work culture: How is it different?

opt for this

Just like the exposure and opportunities, your day-to-day schedule and work culture might also look very different based on what choice you make.

Usually, articles at the Big 4 CA firms are exposed to long working hours which can even exceed 12 hours, while mid-size firms might provide you more flexibility in working hours as well as leave approval.

Prem Thore, a CA article who started his career at Deloitte and then moved on to a mid-size firm, explained, "Deloitte and any other Big 4 firms will give you a good client base with all the major companies but at the same time the working hours can sometimes even exceed 12 hours. On the other hand, as you interact with all the big clients, you inculcate professionalism and personality development that you do not get in other firms."

Switching firms and more

If you are still confused, remember that it is not necessary to just stick to one path. While the process of switching firms might be difficult, if you think you haven't made the right choice, exploring more than one firm is still an option.

Ashi Gupta, an article at a Ghaziabad-based firm, said, "Switching is never an easy process. But one of the best paths is that if you are getting into a Big 4, definitely go for it. It is a highlight for any résumé and helps you make good connections. But then, you can always switch to a mid-size firm in your second year for more versatile learning opportunities and can even go for industrial training."

Additionally, if you do not make a cut for an articleship at Big 4, you can still build your résumé while working with a mid-size firm.

WISE WORD

A WORD WITH THE PRESIDENT

Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal, President, ICAI

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), the professional accounting body which conducts CA exams, is always up to something new. We check in with CA Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal, President, ICAI, and he fills us in on a new initiative and exam system of ICAI.

● ICAI initiated Each One, Teach One process in February 2024. Can you tell us more about this?

As a socially responsible institution, ICAI firmly believes that by leveraging our vast member base of over four lakh professionals, we can make a significant impact on nurturing the next generation. Through the initiative Each One Teach One, we encourage our members to voluntarily step forward and mentor students for their professional development and help them excel in their professional journey. To facilitate this process and ensure its effectiveness ICAI will come up with a dedicated portal. This portal will serve as a central platform for members to register their participation, track their mentorship activities, and provide updates on their progress with the students. This data can be used by ICAI for further refinements in the programme and to assess the impact.

● NEET and JEE have robust mechanisms, wherein, even the Centre and states are involved in training aspirants. What about CA exams?

The examination system of ICAI is very robust and one of the best in the country. ICAI's educational approach merges holistic learning with rigorous examination standards. It is designed to not only to assess conceptual understanding but also check the knowledge of practical application of each subject covered in the CA curriculum. ICAI's examinations continue to ensure that those qualifying are able to become well-groomed professionals. Further, the complete digitalisation of the evaluation process has resulted in faster evaluation, error-free result as well as ease and enhanced convenience for examiners, marking a significant advancement in the efficiency and reliability of the examination system. The institute's examination system is very robust and also appreciated by the Supreme Court of India.

RESEARCHING AND THEN, NETWORKING

The right choice: Factors to keep in mind while choosing a firm

Articleship is a major and mandatory step in one's journey towards becoming a Chartered Accountant (CA). Aspirants might have a lot of questions before joining a firm for the two-year articleship. Here is how you can utilise this time, as per experts and practising CAs, and make the best decision for your future

THE May session of the Chartered Accountancy (CA) Intermediate exams 2024 has just drawn to a close and the candidates can finally breathe a long sigh of relief. But there are experts who suggest that the time between the exams and the declaration of results is a 'golden period' for the aspirants and must be utilised well.

As every CA aspirant needs to pursue a two-year long practical training or articleship with a CA firm after qualifying the Intermediate exam before moving on to the Final level, experts opine that candidates should start their research as soon as possible.

Established Chartered Accountant (CA) Lalit Solanki, said, "It is important that the students utilise this pre-result time well. There is more than enough information about the Big 4 firms online that you can seek, especially read up about the leave disposal policies and how flexible a firm is when it comes to transferring between different domains. A few companies might also begin their pre-result hiring drive so, look out for those to escape the rush post results."

Solanki added that this is the time students should start reaching out to existing employees, articles or former employees at a firm to get insights on work culture, working hours, number of clients, services offered at the firm and more.

firm fever

LinkedIn and other online platforms can prove very helpful in networking and building connections, prior to choosing the right firm for you, the experts added.

"Be open to moving cities. There are students who do not wish to switch cities and settle for smaller firms in their cities. However, remember that it is a matter of two years and to get the best practical training, you must be open," added Solanki.

Moreover, apart from research, students can also start their preparation for the application and interview process at different CA firms. This might not just be limited to your domain and practical knowledge of the field, but also soft skills and personality and communication.

Practising Associate Chartered Accountant (ACA) Himank Singla, said, "You should know that you are applying as a trainee, so any CA firm is not expecting much from you as far as practical knowledge is concerned. Therefore, it's more about your eagerness to learn things. You need to show your eagerness in your replies to as many questions."

Update your résumé, highlight relevant skills, education, and any prior work experience and also be prepared to discuss each point on your résumé in detail, Singla added.

While preparing for the interview round, consider participating in mock interviews with a mentor, teacher, or career counsellor.

"Mock interviews can help you practise your responses, receive feedback, and improve your interview skills. When you are going for an interview, you should be very clear about your vision and what you expect from that CA firm to offer you in terms of experience," he explained.

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DAY'S DIARY

Disney's mall

In 1969, Walt Disney World construction began at Bay Lake and Lake Buena Vista, Florida. The Shopping Village was the centerpiece of Lake Buena Vista

PLAN ON PAPER

Called the Lake Buena Vista Shopping Village, it was envisioned as a shopping mall. Over the years, the mall included an entertainment area, restaurants, and nightclubs

CHANGE IN NAME

In 1977, the area was renamed to Walt Disney World Village. In 1989, as the Disney Village Marketplace, and in 2015 it was officially changed to Disney Springs

OFFERINGS

In the late 70s, the shops sold products like toys, handmade artisan goods, gourmet kitchen accessories, Disney souvenirs and more

A curated guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

AMAZING GRACE IN VICTORY

After clinching the Grand Prix for *All We Imagine as Light* at Cannes, Payal Kapadia used her personal moment of glory to shine light on all her co-warriors of indie cinema

NAMRATA JOSHI

Kani Kusruti, Chhaya Kadam, Payal Kapadia and Divya Prabha

IN winning the Grand Prix for her debut feature film, *All We Imagine As Light (AWIAL)*, at Cannes Film Festival 2024, Payal Kapadia didn't just post a milestone in the history of Indian cinema but elegantly furthered an ongoing debate to the next level. It had taken 30 years (since Shaji N Karun's *Swaham* in 1994) for an Indian film to find a place in the competition section of the Cannes Film Festival. "Please don't wait 30 years to have another Indian film," she said in her award acceptance speech.

Despite a robust independent cinema, spearheaded by a bunch of talented young filmmakers, we have been persistently indulging in self-flagellation about how Indian cinema is not up to the gold standard of the West, never questioning their gaze on us and the defined vision within which our films get circumscribed. *AWIAL*, with its quiet and profound exploration of female friendship, uncovers a cinematic universe beyond the cliched expectations of song-n-dance Bollywood or a testosterone-driven *RRR*. What's more, Kapadia generously used her personal moment of glory to shine light on all her co-warriors of indie cinema and underscored how much she valued her team, the cast and crew on every platform she spoke from. A graceful show of self-esteem, dignity, and solidarity.

At the post-awards winners' press conference, Kapadia expressed happiness in getting recognised for her film but also highlighted the diversity in Indian filmmaking. "There are interesting films being made in India, and I'm only a product of that. There are a lot of interesting filmmakers with a variety of work in all languages. Every state has a strong film industry. We've been around for a long time but for some reason, it took 30 years to be selected," she said. The Malayalam film industry and the Kerala state government got a special nod for making good cinema and supporting and furthering it.

A graduate of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, Kapadia is no stranger to Cannes. Her acclaimed debut feature documentary, *A Night of Knowing Nothing*, premiered at the Directors' Fortnight sidebar in 2021 and won the Oeil d'Or (Golden Eye) award for Best Documentary Film. Her film, *Afternoon Clouds*, was part of the Cinefondation section in 2017.

While stating that it takes a village to make a film, she elaborated on the collaboration that went into making her film, especially the strong connection with her actors – Kani Kusruti, Divya Prabha and Chhaya Kadam. She said that she saw a lot of films with strong female characters in Cannes but longed for even bigger space for women artistes and technicians, and hoped Cannes would include more women filmmakers in its mix.

When asked about the universal language of her cinema which, perhaps, helped reach out to the West, she heaped lavish praise on her alma mater, the FTII, for providing a fertile ground for it. "Over there we watched films from all over the world, we studied cinema from everywhere, and maybe that has played into how I like to make films and I think maybe that's the language the Western audience can be more open to," she said, while appreciating India's own distinct vocabulary in cinema. "It's very self-contained in India. There's not always a need to send a film to an international festival. Mine is just one amongst the thousands of films made in India," she said pointing out the strong, local film-going culture.

She also celebrated the success of fellow FTIIians at Cannes with the international press. Her batchmate Maisam Ali's film *In Retreat* played in the ACID sidebar and Chidananda S Naik's short *Sunflowers Were The First Ones To Know* got the top prize in the official La Cinef section of the festival this year. "It's really nice that our school has led to us making different kinds of films," she said. Her acknowledgement was like coming full circle. Back in 2015, she led the students' protests against the then FTII chairman Gajendra Chauhan and faced disciplinary action for it.

Her documentary *A Night of Knowing Nothing* was a poetic ode to the protest culture. The spirit of creative dissent is also reflected in how the personal and political dilemmas get aligned and intertwined in *AWIAL*. The show of resistance continued on the ground at the festival as well. While her actor Kusruti took a watermelon clutch to the film's red carpet gala, in solidarity with Palestine, during the film's photocall Kapadia herself wore a badge in support of the festival workers' ongoing protests in France demanding better wages and acknowledgement.

CANNES XPRESS 2024

Straight from the heart of Cannes, our writer brings you updates from one of the most prestigious film festivals in the world

Theatre artiste Sharanya Ramprakash's latest play, an experimental work that takes viewers on a journey through the lives of women artistes of yesteryear, was recently staged in the city

MONIKA MONALISA

HAVING taken the theatre stage as her 'karambhoomi', Sharanya Ramprakash had this insatiable quest to find forgotten female theatre actors of the Kannada theatre fraternity between the '60s and '80s. *Project Darling* is the result of that quest. The project is an experimental play, based on a two-year research project, supported by the India Foundation for the Arts (IFA) research grant, which was staged on May 25, at Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar.

The play follows performers, searching for their female ancestry in theatre. Along the way, they stumble upon Khanavali Chenni, an iconic character who ruled the stage with her hilarious 'double entendre'. "When it comes to female performers, there was so much discussion about vulgarity and respectability. These questions were so beautifully answered by these actors before us who pointed out that the issue lies in the beholder's head rather than the performer's body," Ramprakash shares.

While trying to find the actor who played Chenni, they meet several other actors who have their own stories to share. Ramprakash didn't initially know how deep the search was going to be but wanted to give it a shot. "We were in search of who our ancestors were and we thought we would find very few but were surprised to find so many," she explains.

A still from the play

Story behind her-story

The research for this project was so intense that Ramprakash found it challenging to condense it into a 90-minute play. "There were many stories and the history is so deep, so vast, how does one put these stories into a 90-minute time frame? How can we even do justice to this? Each woman's history is like a novel," she adds.

Ramprakash also confides that going through the research left her feeling a myriad of emotions, especially noticing that these fine actors did not receive due credit. "It made me sad and mostly angry to see the amount of hardship and difficulties that they overcame to become actors but were completely unrecognised. You will see busts of so many male actors who they acted with, but you will not see any road named after women actors. Few like a Nagarathnamma got the Padma Shri, but beyond her, there's nobody who got the recognition they deserved. It's just deliberately lost history that it's so angering and scary," she shares.

City-based actor Srinivas Beesetty, ecstatic at receiving positive feedback for his role in the critically-acclaimed film *Srikanth*, shares his experience of working with Rajkummar Rao and the gap he feels between cinema and theatre

AN ACTOR'S CRAFT

MONIKA MONALISA

ACTOR **Srinivas Beesetty** didn't get to watch the first showing of *Srikanth* to gauge the reaction of the audience, as he was preparing for a play in the city. In the movie, Beesetty plays Damodar Bolla, the father of Rajkummar Rao's character. Initially, he didn't realise his part got noticed, especially given the strong supporting cast, including Jyothika, Sharad Kelkar, and Alaya F. However, he soon started receiving messages from critics, praising his performance as 'impactful.' Beesetty recalls that he initially auditioned for the role of a politician named Vidya Reddy, which is played by his 'dear friend' Sukhita Aiyyar. "When this father role came up, the shoot was scheduled for two weeks but we wrapped up in 10 days. I also realised there were many montage shots with reactions rather than dialogues, so I, honestly, did not expect much. Sometimes, scenes get chopped in the editing process," Beesetty explains. He adds, "I've been fortunate. After the shoot, when the film went into post-production, the director called and congratulated me, saying not a single shot of mine was cut."

Creating a character involves significant effort, regardless of screen time, and comes with its own set of challenges. "The challenging part was portraying Damodar when he was stable or super excited. Those moments required more authenticity compared to the emotional scenes, which offer multiple channels to convey emotions," the actor explains. Additionally, he had to maintain the physicality of the character through different stages of life. "There was a short period when he was 25, then suddenly 52, and then 45. Ensuring the physical progression was hard," he adds. Most of his scenes were with Rao, and Beesetty recalls moments when he admired his work ethics. "Once, after finishing his shot, Rajkummar Rao realised it wasn't a wrap-up yet and came back running. He wanted to give me cues personally, instead of an assistant director. It was quite humble of him because, in my experience, actors of his stature don't usually do that," Beesetty mentions.

> *Once, after finishing his shot, Rajkummar Rao realised it wasn't a wrap-up yet and came back running. He wanted to give me cues personally, instead of an assistant director. It was quite humble of him because, in my experience, actors of his stature don't usually do that*
>
> Srinivas Beesetty, actor

A still from the film

Primarily coming from a theatre background, Beesetty points out the gap he feels between theatre acting and performing in front of a camera. "I find myself handicapped when in front of a camera for multiple reasons. In theatre, you're in character for one to three hours. But in films, it's a shot that lasts a minute or two, and then you're out of character. Film acting is slightly mechanical," explains Beesetty, who is currently in the city preparing for his upcoming play, which debuts next month.

GRUB HUB

Aslam Gafoor (@aslamgafoor) is a hospitality professional with experience in business development, sales and marketing with well-known hotels, and food and beverage companies. A few of his passions are travel, food and wine, and he enjoys sharing these experiences as a columnist.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'** The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday. The first-prize winner will receive a voucher worth ₹1,500 from Tyd - kitchen & bar **

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Basella 2) Galho 3)Lapsi

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

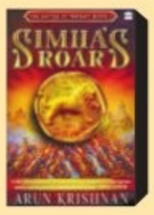
1) Tulsi
2) Jeevan SR Srinath
3) Anilkumar Janardanan

CITY READ

Technology institute Graduation Day held

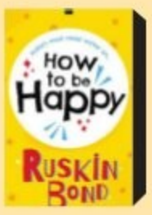
CMR Institute of Technology (CMRIT) hosted its 21st Graduation Day ceremony, honouring 831 graduates from the 2023-24 batch who completed their studies in various fields of Engineering. Chief guest and CEO of Vedantu, Vamsi Krishna, congratulated the graduates and encouraged them to pursue challenging problems in the industry. KC Ramamurthy IPS (Retd), former Member of Rajya Sabha, chairman, of CMR Group of Institutions and CMR University urged the graduates to continue learning and growing in their respective fields. The ceremony was also attended by Sabitha Ramamurthy, chancellor of CMR University, Tristha Ramamurthy, provost of CMR University, KC Raju Reddy, trustee, KC Jagantha Reddy, secretary Jnanadhara Trust, Sanjay Jain, principal of CMRIT, and B Narasimha Murthy, vice-principal of CMRIT.

BOOK NOOK



Simha's Roar
By Arun Krishnan

Revolves around three brave Pallava kings who set out to seek revenge against the Chalukyas. The narrative depicts how the mighty Pallava king Narasimhavarman takes on his nemesis Pulikeshi in a battle of honour.

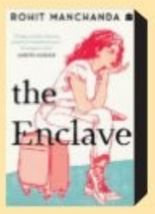


How To Be Happy
Ruskin Bond

The veteran author shares heartfelt and feasible advice with the readers on how to make their lives happy. Filled with various experiences, the book provides a roadmap for how to live a satisfying and peaceful life.

The Boy With A Hundred Questions
By Nalini Ramachandran

The book revolves around Shunya, a nine-year-old boy who loves to spend time under a Peepul tree thinking about the secrets of the universe, the purpose of life, and the meaning of faith. However, some unexpected twists occur in his life as he meets 11 doppelgangers of his father.



The Enclave
By Rohit Manchanda

This book revolves around the life of Maya, a liaison officer in her 40s, trying to live a peaceful life in Bombay. With befitting humour, this book is a perfect depiction of womanhood in the first decade of 21st century India.

STORIES ON CANVAS

Artist Kanchan Rathna explaining her paintings to visitors at her solo exhibition, at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

QUICKFIX

WHEAT PEPPER LADDU

INGREDIENTS

- **Wheat flour:** 500 g
- **Black pepper:** 30 g
- **Ghee**: 200 g
- **Refined sugar:** 300 g
- **Dried Ginger powder:** 2 tbsp

METHOD

- Take a pan and roast wheat flour on medium heat until it becomes golden.
- Sprinkle some black pepper into the wheat flour and stir continuously.
- Add powdered sugar and powdered dry ginger to the mixture.
- Then add ghee and begin to mix well.
- Check the taste of wheat flour. It should feel cooked, and there should be no rawness.
- Take a small portion of the mixture with a spoon and shape it into laddu.

Contributed by **Pavithra Palanisamy**, Erode

DR VIVEK ARORA

drvivekarora@hotmail.com

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi.

My 3-year-old cat is having Flea Bite Hypersensitivity. How can it be treated?

Flea allergy dermatitis (FAD) can be very frustrating for the owner and challenging for the vet. There are a few things that one must keep in mind to ensure a complete reversal of symptoms and the elimination of fleas. Fleas can hibernate for up to a year, so any anti-flea treatment should be done once a month for at least a year, irrespective of the number of the number of visible fleas on the cat's body. Any bedding, clothing, carpet, or rug in contact with the cat or in the same room with the cat should be kept in the sun every day. Fleas are intermediate hosts of tapeworm, which is a zoonotic disease. As soon as you see fleas on your cat, deworm her against tapeworms. The other physical symptoms of FAD can be treated with antibiotics, anti-allergies, and omega-3 and omega-6 supplements.

ASK AN XPERT

FITBIT

ARICHYASANA C VARIATION

(SAGE MARICHI POSE C VARIATION)

This is one of the beginner-level variations of Marichi Pose I, which is a seated spinal twist pose and is a preparatory pose for Sage Marichi Pose C. If students find it difficult to hold the twist, they can wrap the arms around the thigh and shin, and hold the twist. This involves the engagement of the muscles of the spine, and emphasises deep breathing to open the chest, shoulders and hips. The grounding of the sit bones and twisting of the spine have an effect on Mooladhara, Manipura and Swadhisthana Chakras too.

STEPS

- Prepare for the pose by sitting in Dandasana for 3-4 breaths.
- Fold your right leg from the knee and keep it closer to the perineum.
- Exhale and twist your torso on the right side. Hold your folded leg with the left arm as if you are hugging the arm.
- Put your right arm behind your spine. Hold the pose for 5-6 breaths.
- To come back, release the left arm, twist back and then rest in Dandasana for 2-3 breaths.
- Repeat the pose on the other side by folding the left leg and twisting on the left side.
- Put your right arm on the folded leg and the left arm behind the spine keeping a little distance.
- Hold the pose for 5-6 breaths, slowly release and relax.

BENEFITS

- Opens up the shoulders and relieves tension.
- Stretches the intercostal muscles and gradually leads to improvement in breathing.
- Stretches and strengthens the abdominal muscles which helps reduce belly fat.
- Stretches and tones the back and outer hips (gluteal muscles).
- Improves mobility, flexibility, and strength of the spine.
- Helps gain focus, confidence, and stability and prepares the body for more challenging twists.
- Regular practice on both sides can help correct the posture of the back.
- Helps calm the brain.
- Helps remove sluggishness from the internal organs.
- Addresses regular back pain that arises due to wrong posture or long hours at the desk.
- Helps reduce the compression that happens due to bad posture or long hours at the desk.
- Helps address hip misalignment that can also sometimes cause back aches and stiffness in the leg muscles.
- Improves nutrition to the intervertebral discs and squeezes blood out of the internal organs of the abdomen and pelvis.
- Improves circulation in the digestive and reproductive systems.
- It is a stepping stone for intermediate and advanced twisting yoga poses.

LIMITATIONS

- People suffering from a back, hip or knee injury, spondylitis of any part of the spine, especially cervical, have undergone surgery of any internal organ, pregnant women after the second month, avoid this.
- Students must be completely aware of breath-body connections.
- Practice with some props, like a blanket, or chair.
- Those who find it difficult to sit on the floor either because of age or obesity can go for Chair Seated Twists.

By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

@XpressBengaluru/@tniefeatures
bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@xpress_bengaluru

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Belly Laughs

Catch some laughs over delicious food at Glen's BakeHouse, where some of Bengaluru's best comics try out their old and new material.

WHEN: May 27, 7.30pm
WHERE: Kalyan Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Hands-on Pottery

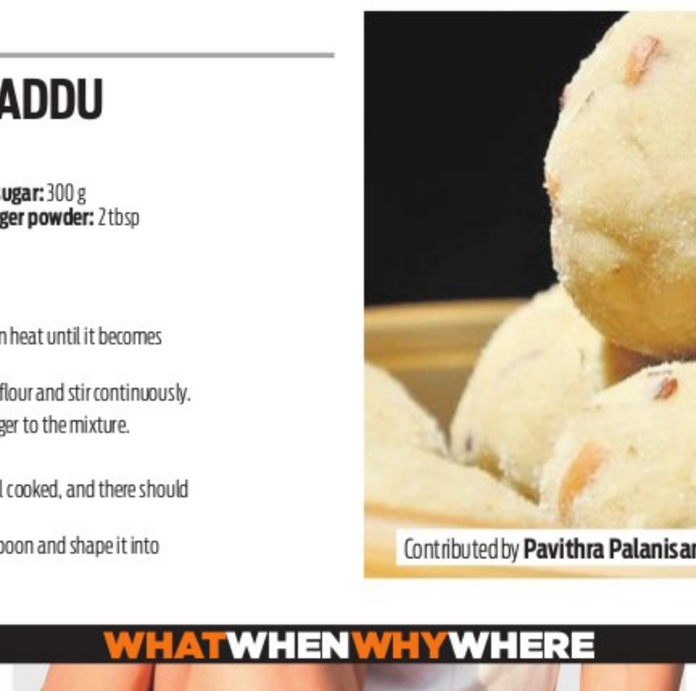
This two-hour pottery workshop offers a well-rounded introduction to ceramics. Learn hand-building techniques and try your hand at the potter's wheel for a creative and insightful experience.

WHEN: May 28, 5pm
WHERE: Maya's Pottery, HAL 3rd Stage
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Cosmic Mysteries

Are you curious about dark energy and its role in the universe's expansion? Join Bharat Ratra for a non-technical talk, exploring the concept of dark energy, dark matter, and the standard model of cosmology.

WHEN: May 27, 6.30pm
WHERE: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur
DETAILS: bangaloreinternationalcentre.org



Fun Run

This Running Club calls all runners for a fun and supportive group experience. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned marathoner, these group runs cater to all paces and abilities. Benefit from expert guidance, make new friends and achieve your running goals in an encouraging environment.

WHEN: May 28, 7am
WHERE: SmallWorld, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Theatrical Treat

The Earthquake is an exploration of human connection, loneliness, and the unspoken words. This is a story of cycles of coming together, drifting apart, and all the spaces in between.

WHEN: May 31, 7.30pm
WHERE: Vyoma ArtSpace and Studio theatre, JP Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Dance Drill

Join Zumba fitness classes to learn a blend of Latin and international dance styles in a fun, energetic workout that combines cardio, stretching, and dance routines. Experienced instructors offer fresh workouts and a supportive community perfect for beginners and zumba pros alike.

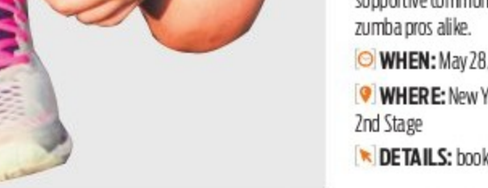
WHEN: May 28, 7am onwards
WHERE: New York Dance Classes, BTM 2nd Stage
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Dance & Drinks

Celebrate and empower your inner Wonder Woman at Big Pitcher. This ladies' night features cocktails and a DJ spinning all night to the beats of the dance floor.

WHEN: May 29, 7.30pm **WHERE:** Big Pitcher, Sarjapur
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

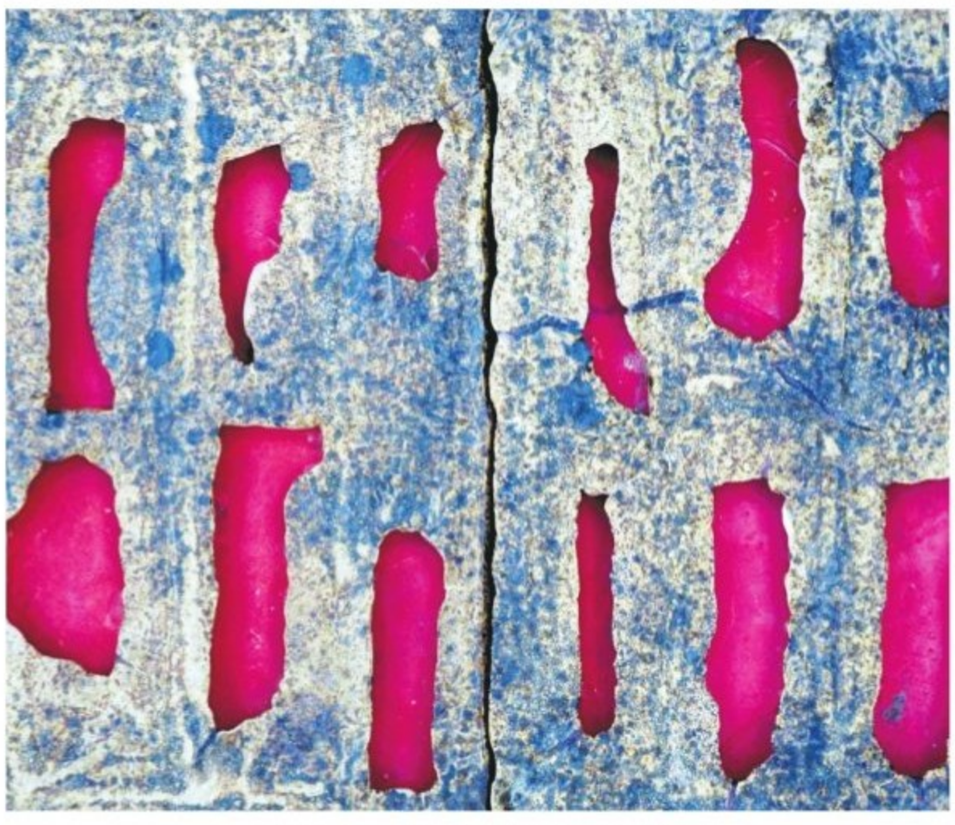
Trinket Tassels



Attend this DIY workshop to unwind with your loved ones as you paint your trinkets with shades of creative energy.

WHEN: May 28, 5pm **WHERE:** Art Beat, HSR Layout
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

ARTCORNER



LANDSCAPE IN CERAMIC

Suvajit Mondal's work 'Landscape 2' is an example of fluid geometry in ceramics, where his visual language transcends the medium's constraints, inviting viewers into a realm of pure expression.

SWIFT 'N' SPORTY

The all-new fourth-generation Swift is here with new design and upgrades

LEKSHMI C PILLAI

FOR customers, buying a Maruti Swift has been a no-brainer since its launch. That's why its sales crossed 30 lakh in India within just two decades. The premium hatchback segment to which the Swift belongs, witnesses very high competition, within it and with the small SUVs. With this in mind, Maruti Suzuki has now given a fourth-generation avatar to the Swift. I was part of the national media drive of the all-new upgraded model, carried out by Maruti Suzuki in Bengaluru. Let me share my experiences of the first drive.

VALUE FOR MONEY

High fuel efficiency, lots of lovable features and the iconic brand status should give confidence to anybody to buy a new Swift. The price of manual variants ranges from ₹6.49 lakh to ₹8.99 lakh (ex-showroom) and the AMT variants come at ₹7.8 lakh to ₹9.5 lakh. This compares with the likes of Hyundai i10, Exter, Tata Punch, Tiago, etc.

EXTERIOR

The design of the 'Epic New Swift', as Maruti Suzuki calls it, is very sporty and youthful, without losing the signature Swift looks. There are smoky LED projector headlamps, boomerang LED DRLs and LED fog lamps flanking the glossy black front grille. The bumper has grown to the bonnet and the Suzuki logo is now above the grille, unlike the previous generation where it was on the grille. At the rear, LED C-shaped lamps add freshness, while the side view is being made attractive with 15-inch two-tone alloy wheels. Unlike the predecessor, the handles of the rear doors are on the door panel itself. This is to facilitate the character lines flow smoothly on the doors. Overall, the car looks very young and sporty.

INTERIOR

The interiors have an all-black theme, which looks premium. The dashboard has also evolved a lot, vis a vis, the last generation. It clearly resembles that of Maruti's own Fronx and Baleno. A 22.86cm (9inch) Smartplay Pro+ infotainment system is the highlight of the dashboard of the top variant I drove. A flat-bottomed steering wheel, fast charging USB Type A& C ports for the rear seat occupants, rear AC vents, cruise control, 60:40 rear split seats and keyless entry are some other useful features. There is also ample leg room, headroom and shoulder room for all passengers. The 3,860mm long car has a wheelbase of 2,450mm, freeing good cabin space. The width of the new Swift is 1,735 mm and the height is 1,520 mm. Boot space is 265 litres and has a very user-friendly shape. All dimensions are almost similar to that of the outgoing Swift, with plus or minus a few millimetres.

SAFETY FEATURES

Maruti Suzuki has added a lot of safety features even in the entry-level variant of the Swift. Standard safety features include six airbags, an electronic stability programme, a hill hold assist, an anti-lock braking system (ABS) with electronic brakeforce distribution (EBD) and brake assist and three-point seat belts for all seats with reminders are in the list. Additionally, the top variant comes equipped with a reverse camera.

ENGINE PERFORMANCE

Maruti Suzuki's brand-new Z-Series engine is part of the new Swift. It is a 1,197cc 3-cylinder engine, replacing the 4-cylinder engine in the last gen. It delivers 60kW of peak power at 5,700 rpm (81 HP) and 111.7 Nm of peak torque at 4300 rpm. This is 8 HP and 1 Nm lower than that of the outgoing model, on paper. But practically, the story is different.

Maruti engineers noted that the engine is suited for Indian driving conditions with excellent low-end torque delivery for better acceleration and high fuel efficiency. In my drive, I could experience its punch and smooth performance. The claimed mileage is 3kmpl more than that of the former generation Swift. The model I drove, the AMT gearbox variant, has a practical gearbox in daily driving conditions. The company claims a fuel efficiency of up to 25.75 kmpl. The new suspension system adds comfort to the ride. Steering precision and high-speed stability are also commendable.

INFOTAINMENT

The 9-inch SmartPlay Pro+ infotainment system with wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, paired with ARKAMYS surround sense audio is really modern. Connectivity facilities in the Suzuki Connect suit also have very useful tech features.

XPRESS HIGHWAY
FORTNIGHLY SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

The writer is a freelance auto expert who hosts TV shows and anchors the YouTube channel 'CARKADUVA'

NUGGETS

Try mango-inspired dishes with European twist

Cricketer Virat Kohli's one8 Commune in Ashok Nagar, is offering a limited-edition mango menu till June 15. Open between 12.30pm and 1am, the menu features a variety of mango-inspired dishes with a modern European twist. The dishes include a refreshing appetiser featuring thinly-sliced ripe mangoes drizzled with a fresh citrus dressing, signature mango and bean curry, mango and goat cheese flatbread, mango cheesecake, open mango tart with coconut crumble and more. For reservations, call 87488 81818.

Hotel to showcase Punjabi-Christian cuisine

The Leela Bhartiya City will be hosting the third edition of its Chapters of Heirloom series between May 29 and May 30, featuring Punjabi-Christian cuisine by chef Bakshish Dean. Part of an initiative by the hotel to explore regional Indian flavours, the event will be held at Quattro restaurant from 7pm to 11pm. Dean, a Punjabi Christian himself, will present dishes like chaati di lassi, phugdian, macchi de pakode, and raau di kheer. The price is ₹1,699 ++ with an additional alcohol supplement starting at ₹999. For reservations, call 96115 29294.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) **MOHANKUMARA K R** resident of Magadi Taluk, Kudur Hobli, Kagimadu Adarangi Post, Ramanagar Dist 561101, have changed my name to **(NEW NAME) MOHAN KUMAR. K R** vide affidavit dated 25.05.2024 sworn before Notary M.K.Devaki Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) DILNASA** residing at # 9, 6th Cross, 7th Main Road, Shamannagar Mysore Road Bangalore-560026, have changed my name to **(NEW NAME) DILNAZ** vide affidavit dated 20.05.2024 sworn before Notary M.K.Devaki Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SUPRITI PAL** M/o No 13628421W, Rank: NK, Name **AMAL PAL**, residing at Vill-Srihatta, PO- Gramsalika, The-Kandi, Distt- Murshidabad, State-West Bengal, Pin-742186, have changed my name from **SUPATI PAL to SUPRITI PAL** my date of birth is 03 Jan 1975 vide affidavit dated: 24-05-2024 before Notary, Sivakumara.M.N, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RAMESHA CHARTHYR SHARANAPPA** S/o **Sharanappa Charthyr** R/at No.2810, 19th Mian B HAL 2nd Stage, Ulsoor Kodihalli, Bengaluru- 560008 have changed my name to **RAMESH CHARTHYR SHARANAPPA** vide affidavit dated: 22/5/2024 Before Notary **A.Gerard** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RAHUL BHAGWANRAO KUMAR. S/o Bhagwan Rao** Passport Bearing No.Z2960704 R/at No.68,10th Main 13th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore- 560003. I have changed my name to **RAHUL KUMAR** vide affidavit dated: 25/5/2024 Before Notary **Manjula K.S**

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **JAGADEESHA KAMATH CH**, S/o Late Gopala Kamath CH, R/at No.3, Skanda 1st Main, 4th Block, Muneshwaraswamy Layout, Doddabommasandra, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore - 560097, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **JAGADEESH KAMATH C H** alias **JAGADEESH KAMATH** alias **JAGADEESHA KAMATH CH** to **JAGADEESHA KAMATH CH**. Henceforth, I shall be known and called as JAGADEESHA KAMATH CH only, vide affidavit dated 25/05/2024, sworn before advocate and notary C N Chandrashekar, at Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Surendra .N**, S/o. Nenaram, Aged about 39 years, R/at No. 14/3, Opp. Royal Mart, Rajanukunte Village and Post, Doddaballapura Main Road, Bangalore District, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **Surendar .N** to **Surendra .N** vide affidavit dated 13.05.2024 sworn to before B. Hanumantharaya, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Asish Jain aged about 32 years. S/o Sri. Nirmal Kumar, resident of No.1128 3rd Main, 2nd Cross, Hosahalli Extension, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560040, hereby declare that my names **Ashish Kumar Jain, Asish Kumar N, Asish Kumar Jain & Asish Kumar Nirmal Kumar** belongs to me only, and both name belongs to one and the same person. Vide affidavit dated:24.05.2024 before advocate and notary Deepa. M , Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) RAHMATH JAN** residing at # 8, 6th Main, 6th Cross, Shamanna Garden, BANGALORE-560026, have changed my name to **(NEW NAME) RAHAMATH UNNISSA** vide affidavit dated 20.05.2024 sworn before Notary M.K.Devaki Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SYED KALEEMULLA and AYESHA SULTHANA** Residing at No 22, 13th Cross, Pipeline, Cholurapalya, Vijayanagar, Bangalore - 560040, have changed my minor Daughter's name from **SABEER BANU** to **SABEERA BANU** vide affidavit dated 20.05.2024 sworn before Notary M.K.Devaki Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MADAN N NAIK** aged about 39 years S/o **Nagesh Danu Naik** R/at Sai Balaji Elite Flat No.207, Carmelaram Doddakannalli, Janatha Colony, Bangalore- 560035 have changed my name to **MADAN NAIK** vide affidavit dated: 25/05/2024 Before Notary **K.V.Mani** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SURESH KUMAR THUNGA RAMACHANDRA** R/at No.56 31st Cross, 7th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru- 560070 have changed my name to **SURESH THUNGA RAMACHANDRA** vide affidavit dated: 18/5/2024 Before Notary **K.V.Mani** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Madhumathi A W/o Arun Kumar L. residing at Saispoorthi, No. 12/6/6, 1Across, 1st Main, Ambabavaninagar, Doddabetta halli, M.S. Palya Vidyaranyapura post, Bangalore, Karnataka-560 097,have changed my name from **MADHUMATHI S** to **MADHU MATHI A**. vide affidavit dated 25/04/2024 sworn before notary G.R. Ravichandra Reddy , Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **METHILDA CHRISTABLE**, aged about 57 years, W/o Sujai R, Residing at No. 1840, 3rd Cross, 18th Main, Jayanagar 4th T Block, Bangalore-560041, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MATHILDA CHRISTABLE** to **METHILDA CHRISTABLE**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **METHILDA CHRISTABLE**, for all purposes, vide Affidavit Dated: 25/05/2024 sworn before Advocate & Notary **MOHAMMED HUSSAIN .K**, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SAHANA RAMESH**, resident of **No. 537, 10th B MAIN, Dodda Banaswadi, Bangalore, Karnataka – 560043** have changed my name to **SAHANA RAJESH REDDY** Affidavit dated 26.05.2024 sworn before advocate and notary CN Balasubramanyam, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Gowramma. K, D/o Mr. Krishnappa. M, aged about 25 years, residing at No. 04, 17th cross, Left side, NTTF stage, near Mylaralingeshwara Swamy temple, Shivapura, Bangalore-560058, have changed my name from **Gowramma .K to Gowri Shree .K** vide Affidavit dated 17.05.2024 sworn to before advocate and notary T.C. Thimmaraja, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **AKSHATHA J. SHETTY,** aged 18 years, D/o. Jayaram Shetty, residing of Sri Kailasha Ashrama, Near R.R. Temple, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bengaluru-560098, have changed my name from **AKSHATHA SHETTY to AKSHATHA J. SHETTY** vide affidavit dated 25-05-2024 sworn before Notary **H.S. SAKALESH ARADHYA,** BENGALURU.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Mr. DHEERAJ KUMAR PATHAK,** aged about 42 years, S/o Mr. Kamal Kishore Pathak, R/at Gopalan Olympia Apartment, Flat No. A-703, Mysore Road, Kumbalagodu, Near Reliance Mart, Kambipura, Kengeri, Bangalore-560074, hereby declare that my names **DHEERAJ KUMAR PATHAK & PATHAK DHEERAJKUMAR KAMAL KISHORE** are one and the same names which belongs to myself only. In future I use my name as **DHEERAJ KUMAR PATHAK** only. Vide affidavit dated: 18-5-2024, sworn before Notary Ravi, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **AMRITA KUMAR PAL**, F/o No 13628421W, Rank: NK, Name **AMAL PAL**, residing at Vill-Srihatta, PO- Gramsalika, The-Kandi, Distt- Murshidabad, State-West Bengal, Pin-742186, have changed my name from **AMRIT PAL** to **AMRITA KUMAR PAL** my date of birth is 23 Fed 1969 vide affidavit dated: 24-05-2024 before Notary, Sivakumara.M.N, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VENKATA MUNI RAJA KUMAR ACHANTA** R/at Flat 2005, Willow Herbs, ITPL Main Road, Brookfield Kundalahalli, Bengaluru- 560037 have changed my name to **VENKATA MUNI RAJKUMAR ACHANTA** vide affidavit dated: 29/4/2024 Before Notary **Prakasha.C** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, R. Chandrashkar S/o Rama krishnaiah, aged about 48 years, R/at No.3, Byatarayanapura, 3rd Floor, No.1, Sahakarnagar VTC Bangalore North, Bangalore-560092, have changed my name from **CHANDRASHEKHAR** to **R. CHANDRASHEKAR** vide affidavit dated 23/05/2024 sworn before notary Devaraja E., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SUJAI R,** aged about 59 years, S/o Late D Rajarathna, Residing at No. 1840, 3rd Cross, 18th Main, Jayanagar 4th T Block, Bangalore-560041, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **R SUJAI** to **SUJAI R** henceforth I shall be known and called as **SUJAI R** for all purposes, vide Affidavit Dated: 25/05/2024 sworn before Advocate & Notary **MOHAMMED HUSSAIN .K,** Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANKITA KATARIA,** aged about 27 years, W/o Ashish Jain S., resident of No. 194-1-1, 2nd Floor, Magadi Main Road, HVR Layout, Opp. Kamakshipalya, Traffic Station, Bangalore North, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore, Karnataka-560079, have changed my name to **ANKITA JAIN** Vide affidavit dated 25.05.2024 sworn before advocate and notary M.K. DEVAKI, Bangalore

For SMART ADS & THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS
Contact : Mr Ravi Kumar
9886550650
080-22866893

PREM-DHRUVA SARJA'S *KD*

SELLS AUDIO RIGHTS FOR RECORD-BREAKING ₹17.70 CR

The makers have made groundbreaking strides in music composition by bringing together 256 musicians in Budapest to create symphonic grandeur; the film is slated for release in December

Shyam, Suprith, Prem, Arjun Janya, Dhruva Sarja and Anand

A SHARADHAA

PREM'S keen sense of music has always complemented his directorial ventures, and his latest project, *KD- The Devil,* starring Dhruva Sarja, is no exception. The action-packed commercial entertainer is not only setting high standards but also pushing the boundaries of cinematic music to new heights. Anand Audio, the noted music label, has acquired the rights to the film's music for a staggering amount of ₹17.70 crores, marking a historic milestone in Kannada cinema. An announcement was made by Suprith, executive producer of the project made under the KVN Production banner.

KD's album, composed by music director Arjun Janya, features six songs. But what truly sets KD apart is its groundbreaking approach to music composition. The film has embarked on a musical odyssey like never before, incorporating huge orchestration to craft an unparalleled auditory experience. Though the initial melodies were born in Mysuru, the film's musical heart took flight in Budapest, where nearly 256 musicians came together to create a symphonic masterpiece. This grand feat surpasses the record of 180 musicians set by Shahrukh Khan's *Pathaan*. Apart from this, Shivamani, along with Zakir Hussain's brother, Taufiq Qureshi has put together 60 musicians who have worked on the rhythm.

Director Prem, renowned for his focus on music in his films, delved into its significance in *KD*. He explains, "Music is an invitation to the audience. It sets the tone for the entire cinematic experience." Prem, who orchestrated the music for his previous directorial venture *Ek Love Ya* in Budapest, described the city as having a unique charm for musical compositions. "Budapest has the perfect setup for such grand arrangements," he remarks, adding, "The symphonic splendour of the city adds an unparalleled richness to the music." Adding to the international flavour of the music, foreign musicians were also brought on board to lend their voices for slokas, further enhancing the film's auditory appeal," he mentions. Composer Arjun Janya expressed his pride in the collaborative effort that went into creating the music for *KD,* describing it as his best work yet, while Shyam of Anand Audio praised the quality of the music, predicting its success. "The music of *KD* is a sure-shot winner," he states.

Dhruva Sarja, speaking at the event, highlighted that his debut film *Addhuri* was made on a budget of ₹ 4 crores. "Today, the audio rights for *KD* alone have fetched four times that amount," the actor mentioned, as he, along with the director and composer, expressed gratitude to the music company, Anand Audio, for their support. Meanwhile, the makers of *KD* have announced their plans for release, as they are aiming to hit theatres in December alongside other big films. Based on a true story, *KD* marks a departure from Prem's usual style. Here, the emotional weight falls squarely on the shoulders of protagonist Dhruva Sarja, a shift from his typical focus on the mother sentiment.

The production of *KD,* which has completed 150 days of shoot, is nearing completion, with some patchwork and a few song sequences yet to be filmed, including one in a foreign location. Produced by Venkat Konanki Narayana, the film brings together a diverse cast with Reeshma Nanaiah as the female lead, along with V Ravichandran, Ramesh Aravind, Sanjay Dutt, and Shilpa Shetty among other actors as part of the principal cast. *KD's* cinematography is handled by William David.

Aishwarya Rajesh along with Shivarajkumar on the sets of *Uttarakaanda*

Uttarakanda also aims for December release

The film becomes the third eyeing the Christmas window after Darshan's *Devil* and Dhruva Sarja's *KD*

CE FEATURES

IT looks like Karnataka theatres are going to be full in the month of December. First, Vaishno Studios, the makers of Darshan's *Devil* directed by Prakash Veer, announced that the film will hit theatres for Christmas this year. The announcement was followed by Prem-Dhruva Sarja's multilingual film *KD,* backed by KVN Production, which is also aiming for a December end release. Now, KRG Studios' *Uttarakaanda,* which brings together the Dhananjay-Shivarajkumar combo has also jumped on the bandwagon as the makers are eyeing a release during the same period.

The filming of *Uttarakaanda* has progressed to its second schedule in Belagavi, with Shivanna recently joining the sets. *Uttarakaanda* not only reunites the Tagaru hit duo Shivanna and Dhananjay on the silver screen but also marks the Kannada debut of Aishwarya Rajesh. Apart from this, the film will also feature Bhavana alongside Shivanna and star Diganth and Chaithra J Achar in lead roles, along with Umashree appearing in a pivotal character.

Adding to the excitement, the Rohit Padaki directorial will be the first Kannada film to have music scored by Amit Trivedi. Advaitha Gurumurthy is cranking the camera for this film, produced by Karthik Gowda and Yogi G Raj.

Champion Boxer Oleksandr Usyk joins *The Smashing ...*

CE FEATURES

AFTER becoming the newly crowned World Heavyweight Boxing Champion, Oleksandr Usyk has joined the cast of Dwayne Johnson's upcoming film *The Smashing Machine*, backed by A24. According to reports, he is set to play MMA legend Igor Vovchanchyn.

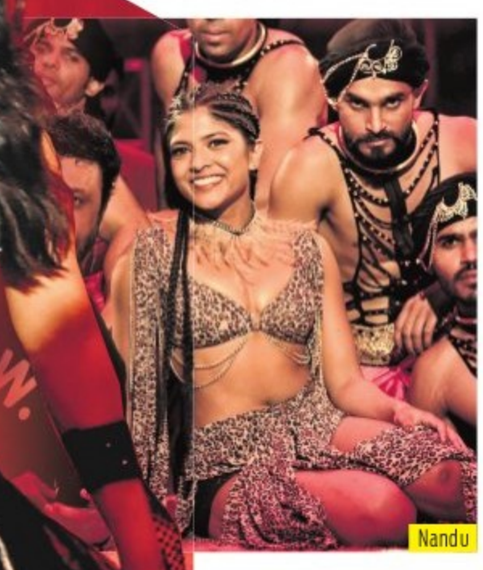
Earlier the makers had released the first look poster of Dwayne Johnson in a never-before-seen role with thick hair and seated in a corner of a ring getting ready for a match. The film also stars Emily Blunt in a prominent role.

The Smashing Machine is set to chronicle Mark Kerr's story, his struggles with addiction, love, friendship, and of course MMA championship victories. Kerr has won above two dozen MMA titles, including a two-time UFC Heavyweight Tournament Championship and World Vale Tudo Championship.

Safdie, popular for directing Uncut Gems and Good Time, will write and direct the film. He will also produce the film under the Out for the Count banner alongside Eli Bush and David Koplan, with Dwayne Johnson and Dany Garcia's Seven Bucks Production.

Kavya Shetty and Nandu make special appearance in 'Chikimika' song from Vasishta Simha's *Love Li*

Kavya Shetty


Nandu

According to director Chethan Keshav, the track is situational, acting as a pivotal element that propels the story forward

CE FEATURES

THE makers of Vasishta Simha's *Love Li* have unveiled a special song featuring actor Kavya Shetty and Bigg Boss and Roadies-fame Nandu as a part of their peppy album. While the first single from *Love Li*, crooned by Vasishta himself was a hit, the follow-up song, titled 'Chikimika' has equally caught the attention of listeners. Anoop Seelin has composed this song which has lyrics penned by Pramod Maravate and choreography by Imran Sardariya.

Sharing some stills from the song featuring Kavya and Nandu, director Chethan Keshav said, "This particular song, though considered as a special song, is a situational track that helps to propel the story forward." The director, also brings his expertise to *Love Li* by directing intense action sequences.

Ravindra Kumar is producing *Love Li* under the Abhuvanasa Creations banner. Steffy Patel stars as the female lead alongside Vasishta Simha. Vanshika, Sadhu Kokila, Dattanna, Malavika, Shobhraj, and Achyuth Kumar round out the film's cast. The film will feature cinematography by Ashwin Kennedy and editing by Harish Komme.

Billed as a romantic thriller infused with raw emotions, the film is inspired by real-life incidents. According to actor Vasishta, the film evokes a wide range of emotions—from laughter to tears—providing a fulfilling experience for the audience. The makers, who are eyeing a June release, are yet to finalise the date.

A still from the film

Agastya takes on multiple responsibilities for his debut titled *Maarige Daari*

CE FEATURES

MAARIGE Daari, two words that held great significance as a part of the theme song of Raj B Shetty's *Toby* has now been chosen as the title for a new film. The film will mark the maiden directorial and acting venture of Agastya.

With the title reveal, the film has come under the spotlight, with the title teaser offering intriguing glimpses into the diverse personas of its protagonist. Although the teaser does not reveal any hints about the storyline, it presents a myriad of the hero's expressions.

A still from the film

"The teaser of *Maarige Daari* hints at a heartwarming narrative that will connect with audiences," explains Agastya, who has taken multiple responsibilities for the film. As the lead actor and director, he has helmed the project, also writing the dialogue and crafting the screenplay to bring his vision to life. Produced under the Radha Films banner, director Agastya promises a fresh storyline packed with captivating elements but keeps the film's content under wraps.

The film's cast includes Mahalakshmi as the female lead and Sudhi, Vardhan, Pradeep Poojari, Benaka Nanjappa, and Bala Rajawadi in supporting roles. Cinematography and editing are handled by Jagadish Gowda, while Swamynathan R K is the music composer for the film. With the film's shoot wrapped up, the team is currently engaged in post-production work, as they aim to release the film in September.